



April 2007

# Rosalie Bay Ecolodge

Ecotourism in the Caribbean

by  
Katie Pavlechko





# Rosalie Bay Ecolodge

Rosalie, Dominica

A creative project submitted to the  
College of Architecture and Planning in partial  
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree  
Bachelor of Landscape Architecture

by  
Katie Pavlechko

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Ball State University

April 2007





# Abstract

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The primary objective of this senior comprehensive project was to introduce a new ecotourism destination on the island of Dominica. The pristine landscape and traditional culture of Dominica make it an ideal location for the principles of ecotourism to be implemented. The opportunity to explore unspoiled natural beauty already exists on Dominica, where development has minimal impact on the natural surroundings. The Dominican economy is shifting focus from agriculture as the government is promoting the country as an ecotourism destination in hopes of it becoming the leading economic industry for the nation.

The research completed in support of this project included the effects of introducing tourist destinations in developing countries, site design and management of ecolodges, and developing the relationship between local residents and cultures and the tourists. The three main issues of focus were impacts on the environment, culture, and economy. Research was conducted to find positive economic impacts and opportunities for developing countries provided by ecotourism. Readings and case studies were used to prove that an ecotourism destination can put more money back into the local economy than regular tourism operations or other business practices. Hiring and purchasing locally are ways of allowing local villages to profit, as well as bringing in local entertainment, artists, or other local entrepreneurs into the project site.

In support of ecotourism as an environmental conservation effort, literature was sought to prove that following the principles of ecotourism would allow the natural landscape to be better maintained and appreciated than before its introduction. Alternative energy use and sustainable water and waste management practices were researched in order to cause the least impact on the land as possible. The preservation of local culture and traditions is also an important principle of ecotourism. Research revealed the best practices in introducing foreign visitors to the local culture and also how to share the local traditions with the visitors. Social programs were also established to create a connection between the project site and the community as a whole. The project benefits the local communities, and serves to educate or promote learning experiences for the local residents, especially students.

The key values of economic sustainability, environmental sustainability, and cultural sustainability have driven the research, analysis, and design of the new ecotourism destination in Rosalie, Dominica.

## project abstract

### + location

Rosalie, Dominica

### + users

ecotourists, local residents, students, researchers

### + site description

22 acres on the southeast coast of dominica

### + contact persons

Beverly Deikel: owner

Hitesh Mehta: field professional

### + significance of project

+ economic profit for dominica

+ preservation of natural landscape

+ preservation of local culture

+ economic profit for local villages



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## Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks to Professors German Cruz, Ronald Spangler, and Christopher Marlow for their shared insight throughout the process of my comprehensive project.

Special thanks is also given to Hitesh Mehta, my professional mentor, who afforded me the opportunity of traveling to Dominica, where I gained respect for the field of ecotourism and all that it brings to local communities.

Thanks to my classmates and the rest of the faculty and staff of the College of Architecture and Planning for their fellowship and encouragement over the last five years.



# Introduction & Challenge Statement



Ecotourism is a form of tourism that is interconnected with native environments, economies, and cultures. It is a way for people to visit places in the world while treading as lightly as possible on the existing natural environment and not disturbing local traditions.



Ecotourism is about connecting conservation, communities, and sustainable travel. This means that those who implement and participate in responsible tourism activities should follow the following ecotourism principles:

- + minimize impact
- + build environmental and cultural awareness and respect
- + provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts
- + provide direct financial benefits for conservation
- + provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people
- + raise sensitivity to host countries' political, environmental, and social climate



## problem

This study analyzed the influence of ecotourism on local environments and cultures with a focus on native materials and methods, relationships between the natural and human environments, and minimizing impacts on native cultures. Furthermore, the focus included experiential learning for both local people and tourists and an exchange of ideas to promote sustainable design. The findings of this research informed the design of an ecolodge in Rosalie, Dominica.

## sub-problems

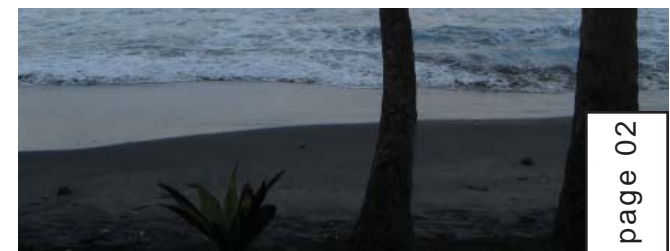
1. explore how ecotourism has become a trend in the tourism industry
  - a. explore the history of tourism and the evolution of ecotourism
  - b. identify types of tourists who visit destinations as 'ecotourists'
  - c. identify activities associated with ecotourism/ecotravel
2. identify positive effects of tourism on the local cultures and the natural environment
  - a. determine the economic benefits of tourism on developing countries
  - b. explore how native people can be integrated into the tourism industry and how they can develop skills advantageous to their community
  - c. explore how tourism can help to preserve exotic environments and provide a learning experience for tourists, students, etc.

# Introduction & Challenge Statement

3. explore how ecotourism has been used to increase positive relationships between the tourist and local cultures
  - a. determine ways that the tourist could positively affect the local economy, social system, or natural environment
  - b. explore the possible interactions between locals and tourists during the stay at the ecolodge or while exploring the local towns
4. identify the qualities of ideal environments for ecotourists
  - a. ascertain the physical characteristics (standards) of an ecolodge
  - b. explore engaging activities of ecolodge environments
  - c. determine the appealing cultural and environmental experiences associated with vacationing at an ecolodge and an exotic location
5. determine how to become 'native to a place' while working at/visiting dominica
  - a. identify the history of dominica
  - b. identify the activities and traditions that identify the culture of the carib indians as well as locals to the island
  - c. determine how to tread as lightly as possible on the existing culture, while at the same time actively participating in the way of life

6. analyze how ecolodges have been used in exotic locations, the experiential differences between ecotourists and tourists, and the physical characteristics of ecolodges to inform the design the

Ecotourists' experience of Rosalie, Dominica  
How can people be brought into to an exotic location in a developing country and leave only positive effects on the local culture and environment? How can amicable relationships be encouraged between the tourists and the locals? The proposed design is an ecolodge that will create a learning experience for both native and non-native visitors, while protecting and enhancing the natural environment.





# Definition of Terms



**+ tourism**  
travel undertaken for pleasure

**+ ecotourism**  
responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people

survive, and also outstanding archaeological or architectural sites. stress on maintenance of heritage values for worldwide public enlightenment and to provide for research and environmental monitoring



**+ sustainable tourism**  
tourism that meets the needs of present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future

**+ responsible tourism**  
tourism that maximizes the benefits to local communities, minimizes negative social or environmental impacts, and helps local people conserve fragile cultures and habitats or species



**+ nature-based tourism**  
any form of tourism that relies primarily on the natural environment for its attractions or settings



**+ adventure tourism**  
a form of nature-based tourism that incorporates an element of risk, higher levels of physical exertion, and the need for specialized skill



**+ world heritage site**  
to protect natural - and also cultural - features considered to be of world heritage quality; examples include outstanding illustrations of the major stages of earth's evolutionary history, habitats where populations of rare or endangered species of plants and animals still

## + **The International Ecotourism Society**

The focus of the research pertinent to this project includes growing trends in the tourism and ecotourism industry, consumer demand, and operator support for responsible tourism. Ties' vision is to be the global source of knowledge and advocacy uniting communities, conservation, and sustainable travel. The ties ecotourism principles will be a means by which the project site is analyzed and designed.

## + **Analysis of Community-Based Ecotourism in the Americas**

A publication from The Center on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development & The international ecotourism society

September 24, 2004, v.1

Authors: William H. Durham, Sara H. Hoagland,  
Vernita Ediger, Audrey Davenport, Rosie O'Garra  
Institution: CESD-Stanford, Stanford University

This report presents the findings of the CESD-Stanford research team that compiled a database of community-based ecotourism operations (cbe's) in the Americas during the summer of 2004. The report studies the economic, environmental, and cultural benefits of community-based tourism. It suggests that communities view ecotourism as an opportunity to "generate income to support families, educations, health care and local infrastructure. They are hoping to improve their financial situation. In some instances, the database shows that communities turned to ecotourism after an alternative income generation scheme, such as cattle ranching, or gold mining, had failed. Ecotourism is thus seen as an alternative to an exploitive practice that has failed, in the long-run, to sustain a community. The initiative may often come from outside influences, such as ex-patriots or ngos, but can also emerge from internal community concerns" (pg 14).

## + **International Ecotourism Guidelines**

authors: Hitesh Mehta, ASLA RIBA

Ana I. Baez and Paul O'Loughlin

This publication establishes guidelines for ecolodge accommodation facilities. Of the ten established criterion, an ecolodge must satisfy five,

three of which must embody the main principles of ecotourism; that of conservation of neighboring lands, benefits to local communities, and interpretation of both local populations and guests. The information in this book concerning site planning and design will inform my project design. The methodology, process, and design will be guided by mehta's expertise in site analysis, cultural awareness, visitor management, habitat and species management, and operational management.

International ecolodge guidelines provide real program elements and issues influential to this project design. Such topics include water management practices, grading and drainage, planting design, architectural design, waste management, energy efficiency, and business plans.

## + **The Encyclopedia of Ecotourism**

editor: David B. Weaver

This work addresses the fundamental principles of ecotourism. It provided great case studies to showcase the start up and maintenance of ecotourism destinations. It explains how ecotourism enables the traveler to better appreciate a new environment, to experience a sense of adventure, to relax and perhaps to learn. Ecotourism has a great affiliation with the local culture and is tied to the educational aspects of environmentally responsible living. It is also truly good business when done well. Daniel's head in Bermuda is a great case study for accommodation facilities.

## + **Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas**

Authors: Paul F.J. Eagles, Stephen F. McCool, and Christopher D. Haynes

This book is a great source for interpretation programs and operations, facility operations, and guiding directions for sensitive design. Many case studies showcase the goals and services of different ecotourism destinations. Also, there are many informative guidelines regarding programming, management goals, and ensuring benefits to the local community and environment.



# Ecotourism in Dominica

Dominica is known as the Nature Island of the Caribbean. Nestled between the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, it boasts a variety of natural attractions including 365 rivers and streams, waterfalls, hot sulfur springs, a boiling lake (considered the world's largest) and four, cold, freshwater lakes, two of which are situated more than 2,500 feet above sea level.

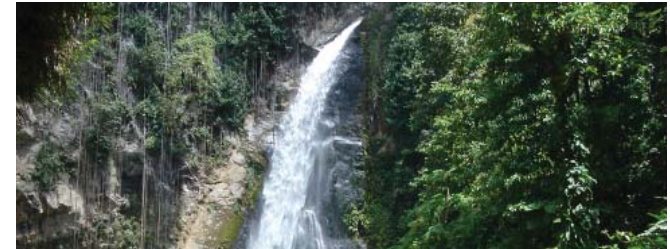
Lush vegetation and indigenous forest cloak the island's mountainous terrain, several peaks of which exceed 4,000 feet in height. Tree ferns, orchids, heliconia and anthurium lilies decorate the forest floor while 175 species of birds, green iguanas, geckoes, tree lizards, aguti, manicou, beautiful butterflies and a multitude of colourful flora can be enjoyed throughout an island where nature trails abound. The Morne Trois Pitons National Park enjoys the status of World Heritage Site and contains nature trails to many of the island's popular attractions, such as the Emerald Pool & waterfall, the twin Trafalgar Falls, Sari Sari Falls and Victoria Falls on the White River, flowing south eastwards from the Boiling Lake.

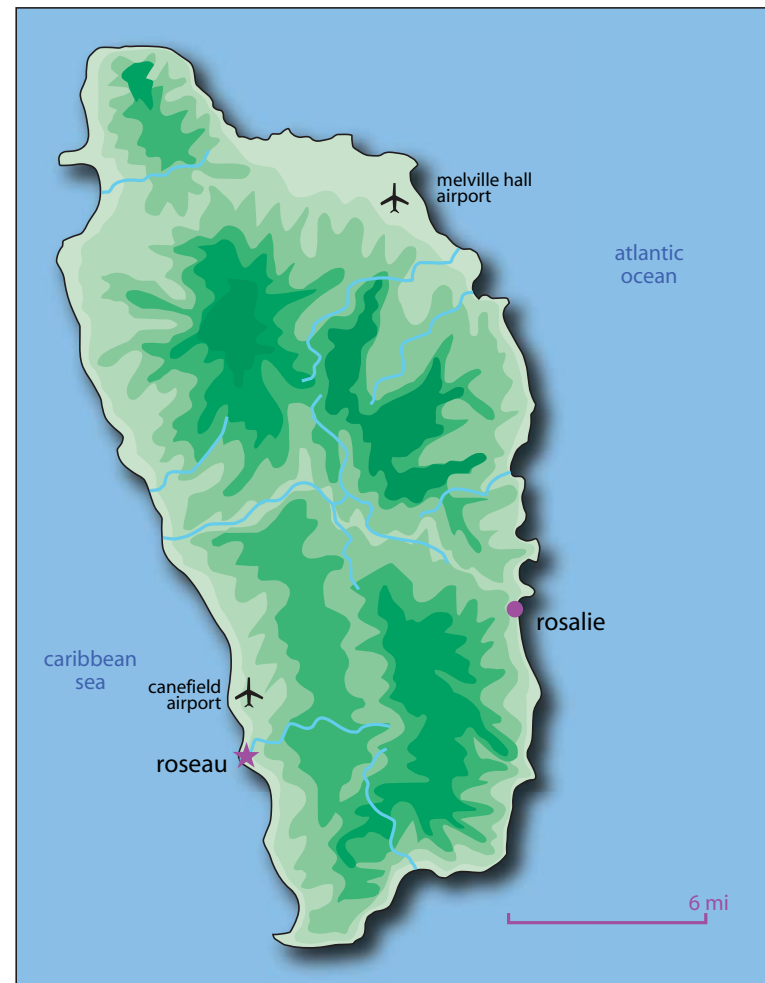
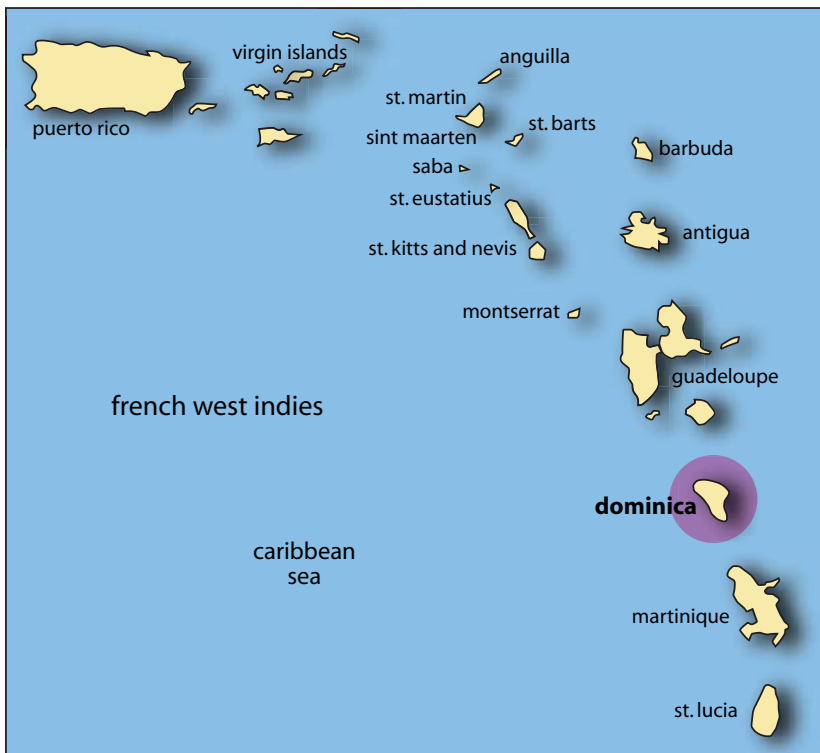
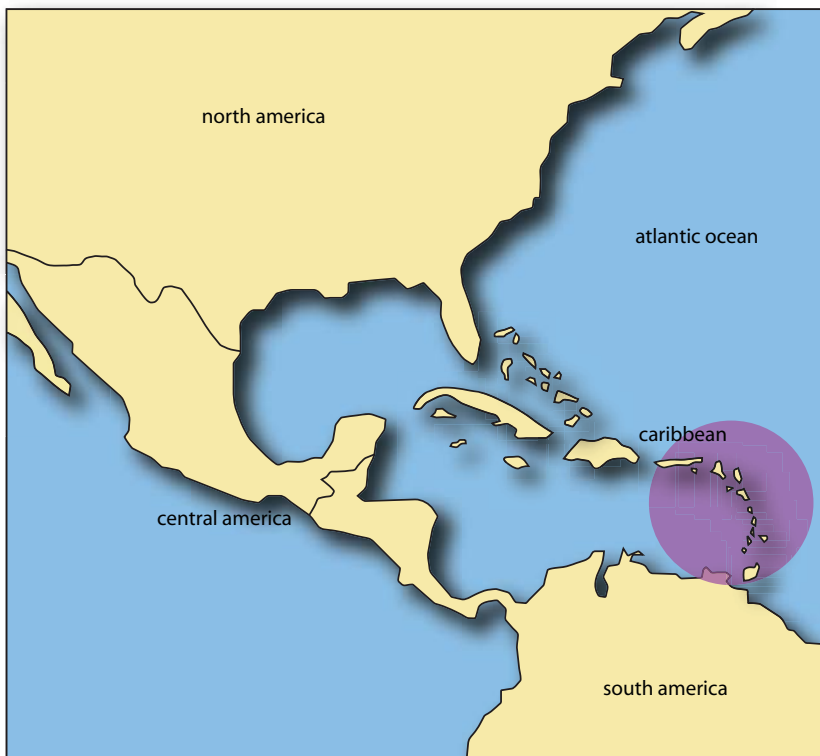
Divers from around the world experience the uniqueness of underwater springs, caves, and volcanoes, while they observe the abundant and colorful marine life which include tropical fish, sponges, sea horses and coral. Whale watching is also a popular tourist attraction off the coast of the island.

The physical attraction coupled with Dominica's unique cultural heritage make this island an ultimate ecotourism destination.

Due to its terrain and lack of development funding, Dominica has so far escaped the level of development which is so prevalent on the other Caribbean islands. It has, in fact, rather gone unnoticed in the mass tourism marketplace, and is instead, a tourism destination for nature lovers, hikers and divers.

It is this wonderful, unique, natural environment, so far minimally impacted by the effects of human habitation, which makes Dominica so attractive. It has no tourist 'mega resorts', with most visitor accommodations being small, individual and personal in nature. Through ecotourism, Dominica can conserve both its natural landscape and unique heritage while employing it to the island's advantage.





### the location & access

Rosalie Bay is located in southeast Dominica and can be reached by ferry or plane.

l'express des Iles connects Dominica with both Pointe-a-Pitre in Guadeloupe and Fort-de-France in Martinique on modern catamarans. Both services do return trips on the same days. Caribbean Ferries also runs a once-per-day return service between Dominica and St. Lucia and Guadeloupe.

There are no direct flights available from Europe or the US into Dominica, so overseas visitors must first get to a gateway island. There are direct flights to Dominica from Antigua, Barbados, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, and St. Martin.

The site can be reached by car from the Melville Hall Airport in about an hour.



# Dominica Tourism 2010 Policy



*Dominica's Tourism 2010 Policy seeks to enhance the scenic coastal route which is bolded in red in the map above.*

Dominica's government has created a 2010 Tourism Policy to implement the country's vision of becoming a world-renowned tourism destination. Primarily, it is aimed at redirecting the economy from one that was dependent on agriculture to one that has to take on the highly competitive field of tourism.

Tourism 2010 lays down the guidelines and objectives for tourism in the country, ensuring widespread tourism benefits and adopting a practical approach to implementation. "A national tourism policy is essential to define the vision for tourism and the direction in which the country believes its tourism sector should grow.

With this in mind, our policy is based on the premise that all Dominicans must understand and embrace their role in this fledgling industry and that this common and united approach will lead to increased economic growth and improved living standards for our people" (Dominica 2005).

The policy encourages nature, heritage and cultural tourism product development as well as community tourism, recognizing that Dominica's product is globally competitive in the ecotourism sector.

"Government strategy on tourism will be geared at increasing revenues and employment generation. The focus will be on increasing both stayover and cruise visitor arrivals by increased investment and promotion and marketing.

Dominica will pursue sustainable tourism that enriches the lives of all citizens by creating economic, social and cultural opportunities, protecting the natural resources and scenic,

heritage and cultural features of the country, nurturing community involvement in tourism at sustainable levels, and by creating career paths for the young people of Dominica" (Dominica 2005).

## **social and economic benefits**

- + creation of jobs
- + encourage Dominica's youth to enter the tourism sector

## **environmental management**

- + enhanced interpretive programs at nature sites
- + scenic viewscape protection for Dominica's coastline routes

## **heritage/cultural protection**

- + community-based heritage and cultural products
- + fostering of pride in Dominica's culture

## Implementation of Policy

The project site, located in Rosalie, is sited along the scenic coastline route along which the government would like to implement coastal area touring where "specialty lodges, adventure and cultural tourism product experiences should be enhanced" (Dominica 2005). **Ecolodges** are the ideal solution in creating overnight accommodations for tourists which enhance the natural and cultural product of Dominica. This comprehensive project will focus on the site planning and design of a new ecolodge on the southeast coast of the island in Rosalie, Dominica.

# Ecolodge Guidelines

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An ecolodge is an accommodation facility that satisfies at least five of the following criteria. Three of these criteria must embody the main principles of ecotourism; that of conservation of the natural landscape, benefits to the local communities and interpretation to both local populations and guests.

## **1 help in the conservation of the surrounding flora and fauna**

- + above all, avoid cutting down trees in order to locate facilities
- + avoid using areas of dense vegetation or primary forest
- + consider your ecolodge to be a continuation of a protected area, a forest or coastal system
- + keep all construction activities in previously cleared areas to minimize sometimes irreversible impacts such as compaction
- + avoid interfering with animal life both during construction and on-going operations
- + build as far as possible from all known sites of animal nesting areas, mating areas, resting areas, wildlife travel corridors, food and water sources, etc.
- + instruct the visitor not to disturb the wildlife; e.g. no screaming, no high-volume radios, no engines, etc.
- + use a “zoning system” and mark them on maps, along with all-important points to view wildlife

## **2 endeavor to work together with the local community**

- + invest in a deep and objective analysis of the values and cultural traditions of the community
- + avoid making the mistake of abusing traditional symbols and activities
- + buy as much locally produced food as possible
- + identify cultural impacts the project could produce and establish a monitoring plan
- + establish a solid knowledge base about the values and traditions of neighboring communities and available natural resources

## **3 offer interpretive programs to educate both its employees and tourists about the surrounding natural and cultural environments**

- + make sure that you have a firm grounding in ecology and ecotourism
- + hire only marketing companies and marketing personnel that have been trained in sustainability practices and that display values compatible with the ecolodge
- + provide the best opportunities for the visitor to experience or discover certain plants, animals, archaeological ruins or cultural aspects of the area in a way that does not ultimately damage the sustainability of the facility or the region
- + use innovative and varied interpretative methods to expose visitors to concepts related to the ecolodge’s setting, biology, and operations

## **4 use alternative, sustainable means of water acquisition and reduce water consumption**

- + carefully manage and monitor water resources, as well as waste handling and disposal, which can prevent the ecolodge from depleting or contaminating the natural resources surrounding it
- + use low-flow showerhead sprayers, aerators, and restrictors, water-conserving dual-flush toilets
- + specify guttering, pipe-work and tanks to catch and use water efficiently, including any filtration necessary to ensure a clean drinking water supply

# Ecolodge Guidelines

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## **5 provide for careful handling and disposal of solid waste and sewage**

- + use products that minimize waste and are not toxic
- + reject all unnecessary packaging
- + convert biodegradable waste to compost or submit the waste to digestive anaerobic systems. many biodegradable wastes would be better suited to an aerobic system

## **6 meet its energy needs through passive design and renewable energy sources**

- + traditional passive design should be used when drawing up an ecolodge, paying particular attention to the area's architecture where the lodge is planned
- + study the history of the area's climate and the suitability of materials you propose to use
- + many different passive design techniques are found in traditional architecture in relation to the sun

## **7 use traditional building technology and materials wherever possible and combine these with their modern counterparts for greater sustainability**

- + identify the most suitable building method for the site and type of project to develop, considering the environmental, economic, cultural, and time factors
- + hand-excavate foundations whenever possible
- + examples of traditional technology include dried clay bricks, reeds, grasses, and other natural building materials using sun and wind, and use of handmade, human-powered tools

## **8 have minimal impact on the natural surroundings during construction**

- + avoid any runoff during construction as this can cause damage to adjacent properties
- + specify waste removal contracting as part of the construction stage
- + reduce building waste and packaging at the source
- + design for the most economical use of construction materials

## **9 fit into its specific physical and cultural contexts through careful attention to form, landscaping and color, as well as the use of vernacular architecture**

- + buildings and other structures should not dominate the landscape and/or surrounding vegetation
- + conceive the shape of the roof to be a function of the site's precipitation regime
- + avoid building high structures

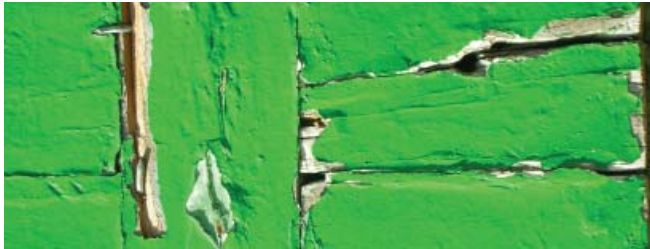
## **10 contribute to sustainable local community development through education programs and research**

- + prior to actual release of any information on an ecolodge project, sponsor a series of workshops through a local chamber of commerce or community college on ecotourism and sustainable tourism development
- + provide information for local schools, churches, and community centers on ecotourism, sustainable habitat management, wildlife viewing, and other aspects of ecolodge development to serve as a positive support base for future ecolodge development
- + hold a project workshop with local community leaders and inform them on sustainability, the ecolodge market and the business benefits and impacts of your proposed ecolodge project

(Mehta, 2002)



# Methodology & Process



In april of 2006, a four person team from EDSA, the largest ecotourism planning and ecolodge design firm in the world, visited the island of Dominica. Seven days were spent on the island, taking in its mountainous landscape, lush green vegetation, quiet, star-lit nights, and eating the native foods. Four of these seven days were spent on the site of Rosalie Bay, a 22-acre piece of land on the southeast coast of the island. During this time spent at Rosalie Bay, the team toured the black sand beaches, lush rainforest, and grassy flatlands, photographing, sketching, and observing the sights and sounds of the property. An on-site analysis was conducted and meetings were held with a local architect, civil engineer, waste water treatment expert, and Rowan Byrne, the ROSTI (Rosalie Sea Turtle Initiative) biologist.

The team also spent time exploring other regions of the island, including Dominica's capital and only city, Roseau. The colorful city streets are lined with old stone-and-wood buildings. Some buildings are very colorfully painted, with gingerbread trim and overhanging balconies, while others are just small shanties lost between the allies. While the city is alive with sounds, everywhere else on the island is quite peaceful and calm. If staying along the coast at night the only things one will hear are the waves crashing and sounds of the insects.

The team also visited sites within the Carib Territory, participating in a traditional dance ceremony held at the Carib Model Village. Over the seven days on the island, the team

experienced traditional cultures, foods, and ways of life. Meetings with people of various background included the Minister of Tourism, Yvor Nassief, the Carib Indian Chief, Garnette Joseph, and local residents. The team stayed in the bustling city of Roseau as well as other local villages, paying special attention to the natural attributes of the island as well as its culture.

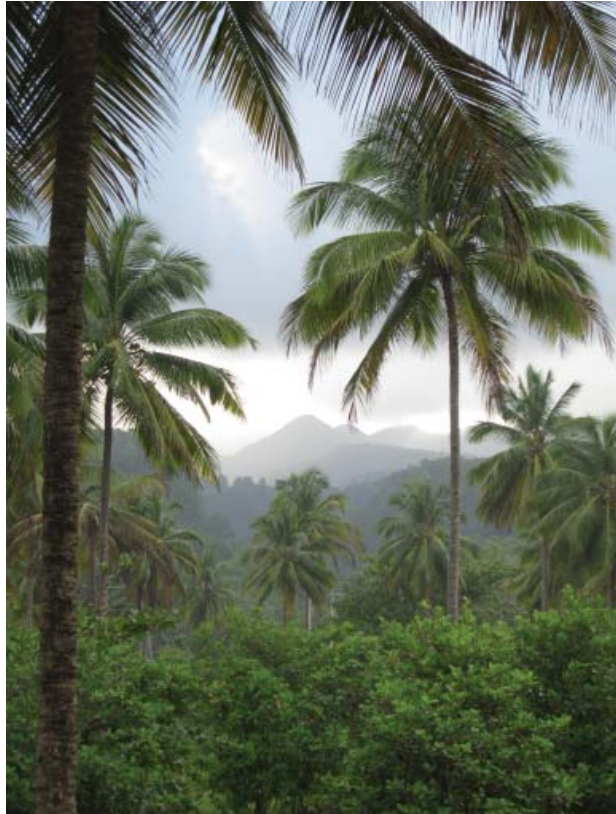
From the intial meetings, on-site visits, analyses, and EDSA, the following were located for the site:

- + site photographs
- + aerial photographs
- + Auto Cad topography maps
- + Carib Indian literature
- + literature on native plants in Dominca

Research was then continued in ecotourism and ecolodge design, and proper design for sensitive turtle nesting beach sites. Extended research focused on local caribbean architecture and materials, waster and water treatment for remote locations, and alternative energy.

The final project entails site inventory, site analysis, opportunities and constraints diagrams, preliminary overall master plan, draft master plan, overall conceptual master plan, and schematic design for the rosalie bay ecolodge. All phases of the design process focused on creating a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable ecotourism destination.





## Client Vision

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- + self-sustaining resort
- + peace and tranquility
- + designed for travelers with an interest in the environment, nature, wildlife and local culture
- + sponsor ROSTI
- + alternative energy
- + waste water treatment system

## Project Goals

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- + meet the criteria of International Ecotourism Guidelines
- + satisfy the ecotourism principles established by the International Ecotourism Society
- + help to implement the objectives of the Dominica Tourism 2010 Policy

# Dominica Culture

Dominica formed 26 millions years ago from the shifting of two tectonic plates. The dramatic mountains formed are some of the tallest in the eastern Caribbean. In 1493, Columbus introduced colonization to Dominica and nearly wiped out the native people, the Carib Indians. Ignoring the Carib name for the island, Waitukubuli (meaning "tall is her body"), Columbus named Dominica after the day on which he landed, Sunday.

The British and French fought continuously for control over the island until 1978 when Dominica gained independence. The influence of the British and French is apparent in the island's architecture and language.

Dominica is populated with around 70,000 people inhabiting its 289.5 square miles. A significant portion of the population lives in and around the capital city, Roseau, on the southwest coast of the island. Dominica's rich culture comes from its mix of English, French, African, and Carib peoples. This is evident in the country's food, music, dance, language, and hospitality. English is the official language, spoken with a melodic French inflection, but a large portion of the population speak Creole.

Bananas were Dominica's major export and economic mainstay until the early 1990s when it lost its access to the UK market. Today, the Dominican Government is depending heavily on tourism, and especially ecotourism, to aid in the island's economic development.





# Carib Indian Culture



Properly known as the Kalinago, Dominica's indigenous people inhabit a 3,700 acre territory on the eastern coast of the island. The Carib Indians migrated from South America around 3,000 BC, calling the island Waitukubuli, meaning "tall is her body" in the Kalinago language.

The Carib Indians resisted European colonization for hundreds of years after Columbus' landing on the island, and were negatively affected by their settlement. In 1903, the British Administrator of the time, Heskith Bell, allocated 3,700 acres to the Caribs, known today as the Carib Territory. This was the rugged unoccupied part of the island to which the majority of Caribs retreated after the colonization of the rest of Dominica by the French and British.

Today, there are approximately 2,200 Caribs who live in the Carib Territory. Tourists will find many Caribs selling their craft along the roadside, with basketry, beaded jewelry, and wood carvings being the most common. In 1998 the Carib Model Village was created as a center of indigenous arts and crafts, providing education for the community and a focus of indigeneity for those who visited the Carib Territory. Dances, traditions, legends, and beliefs have been kept alive by the elders who pass on these traditions through story-telling. The language is only spoken by a few people today but their dances are being performed by Karifauna, their dance group.







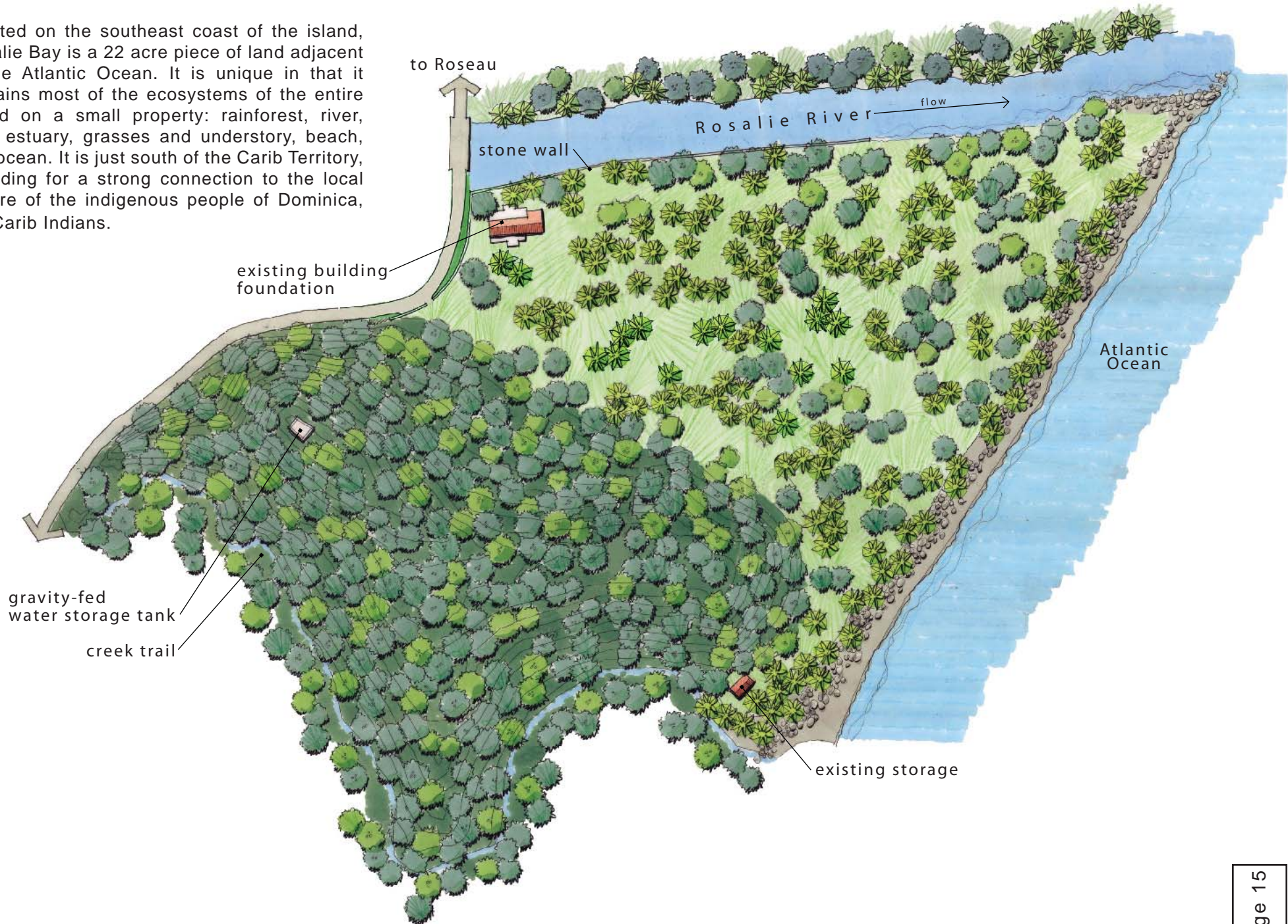
# Understanding the Landscape





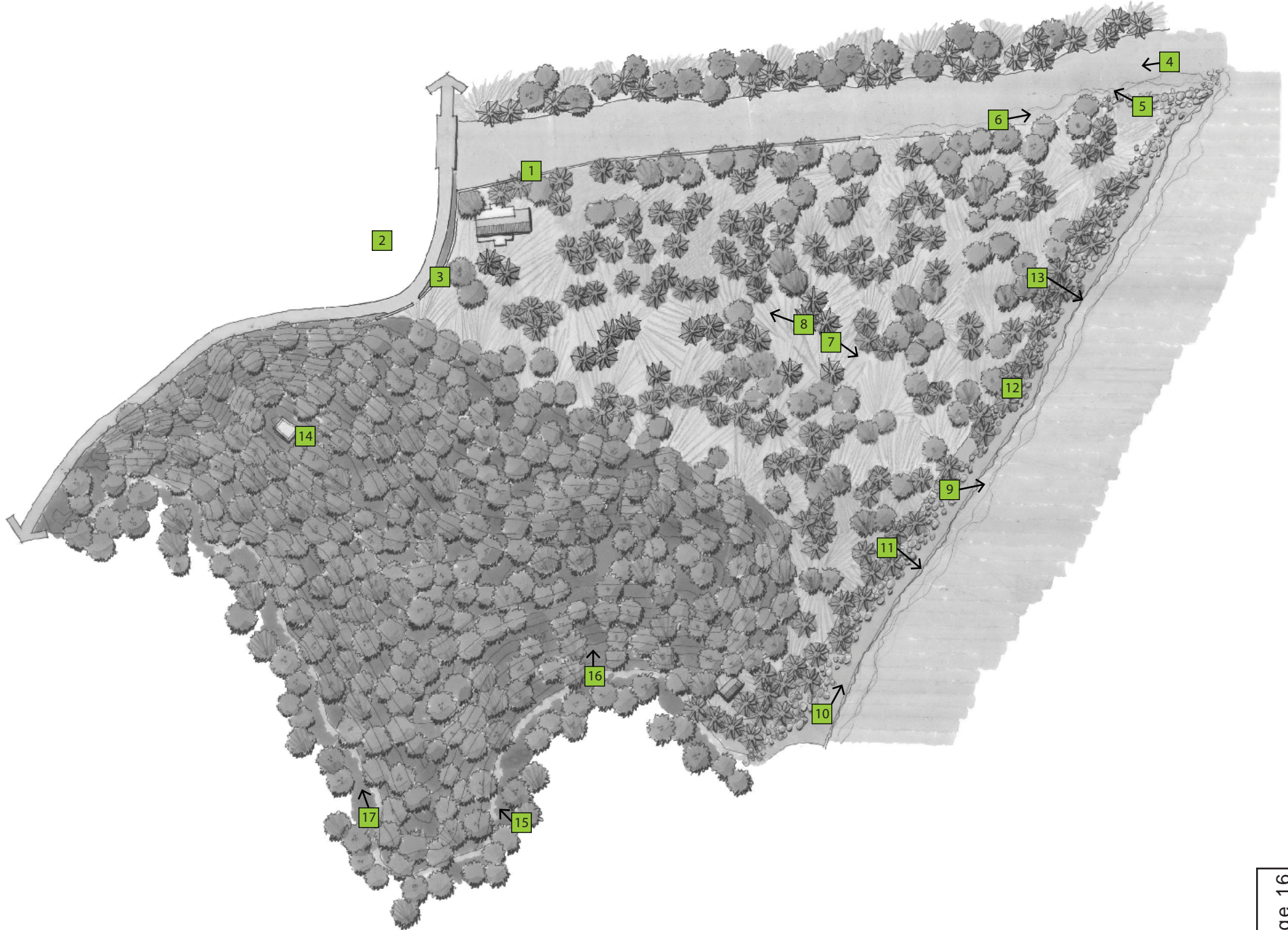
# Rosalie Bay Existing Conditions

Located on the southeast coast of the island, Rosalie Bay is a 22 acre piece of land adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean. It is unique in that it contains most of the ecosystems of the entire island on a small property: rainforest, river, river estuary, grasses and understory, beach, and ocean. It is just south of the Carib Territory, providing for a strong connection to the local culture of the indigenous people of Dominica, the Carib Indians.





# The Site & Surroundings





# The Site & Surroundings



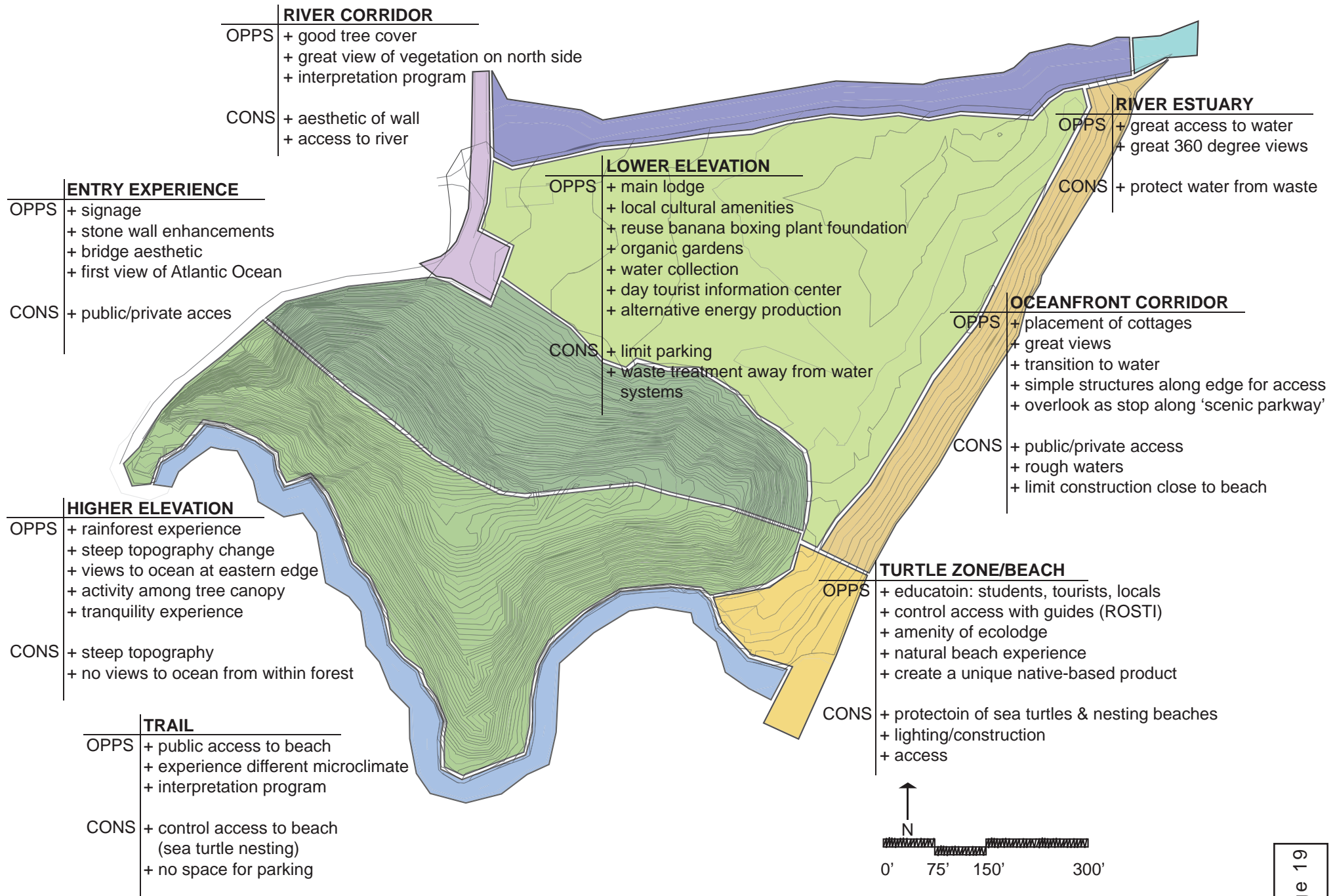


# The Site & Surroundings



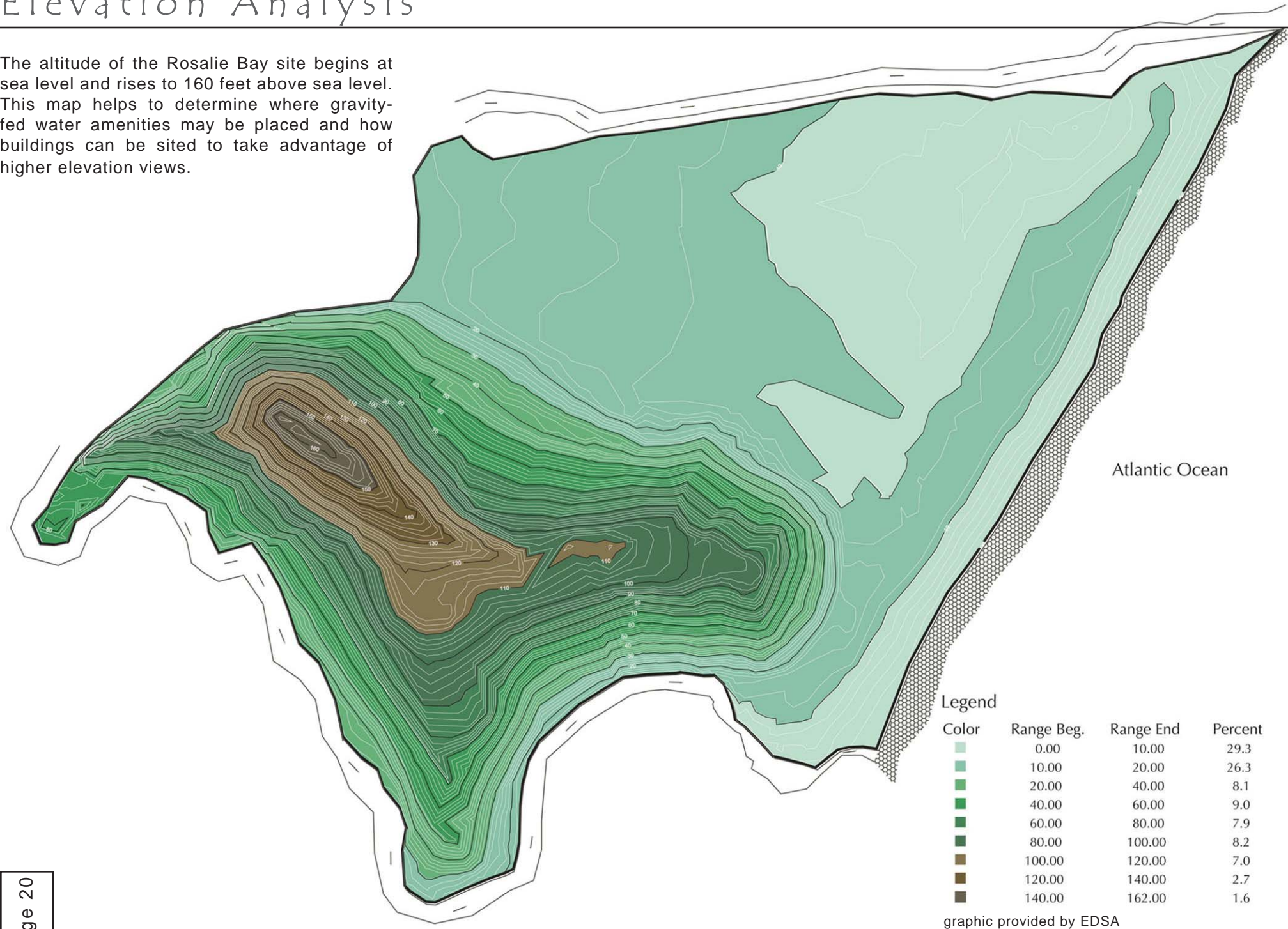


# Opportunities & Constraints



# Elevation Analysis

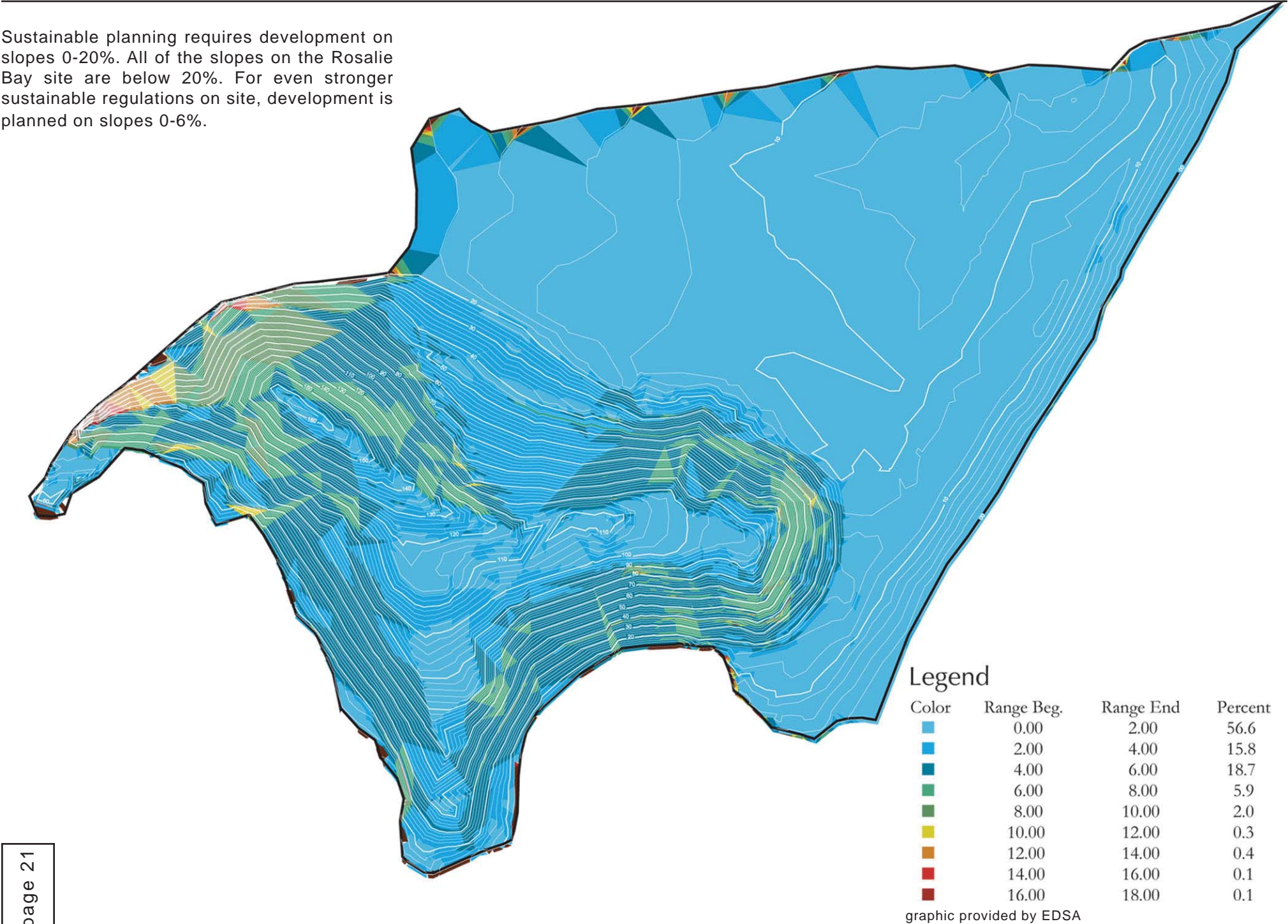
The altitude of the Rosalie Bay site begins at sea level and rises to 160 feet above sea level. This map helps to determine where gravity-fed water amenities may be placed and how buildings can be sited to take advantage of higher elevation views.





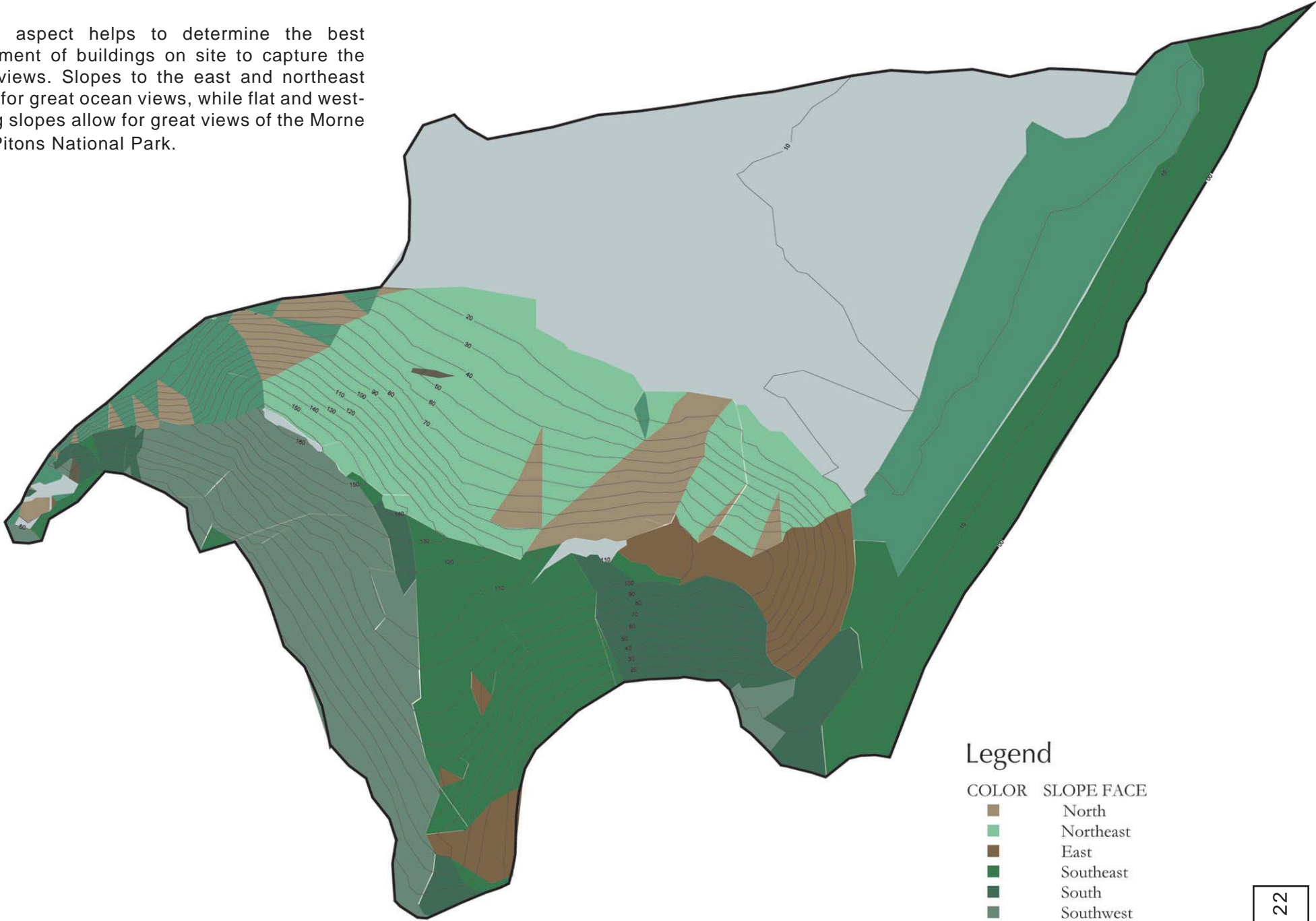
# Slope Analysis

Sustainable planning requires development on slopes 0-20%. All of the slopes on the Rosalie Bay site are below 20%. For even stronger sustainable regulations on site, development is planned on slopes 0-6%.



# Slope Aspect Analysis

Slope aspect helps to determine the best placement of buildings on site to capture the best views. Slopes to the east and northeast allow for great ocean views, while flat and west-facing slopes allow for great views of the Morne Troi Pitons National Park.



Legend

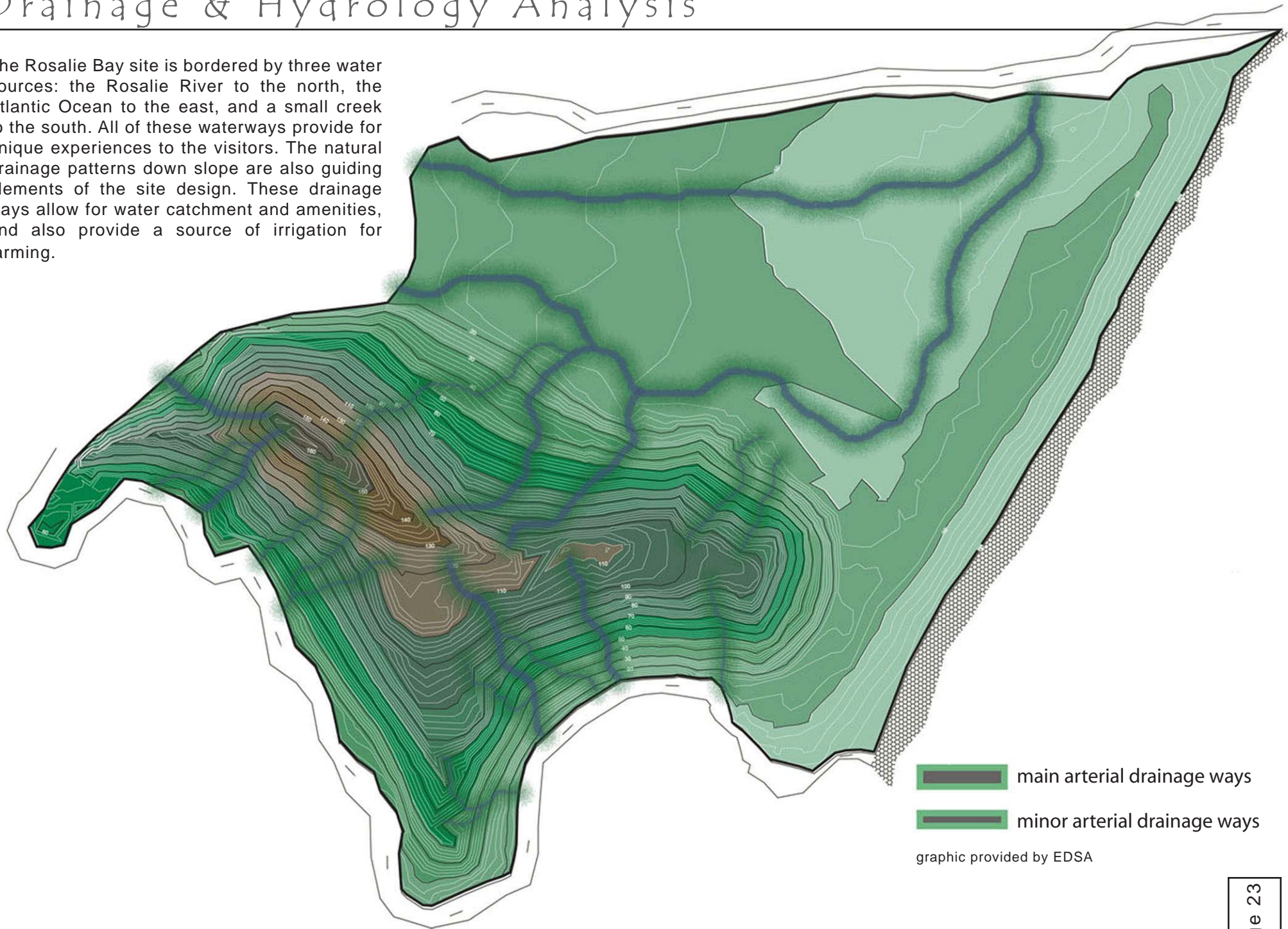
COLOR	SLOPE FACE
<span style="color: brown;">■</span>	North
<span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span>	Northeast
<span style="color: darkbrown;">■</span>	East
<span style="color: darkgreen;">■</span>	Southeast
<span style="color: mediumgreen;">■</span>	South
<span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span>	Southwest
<span style="color: darkgreen;">■</span>	Northwest
<span style="color: lightgrey;">■</span>	Flat

graphic provided by EDSA



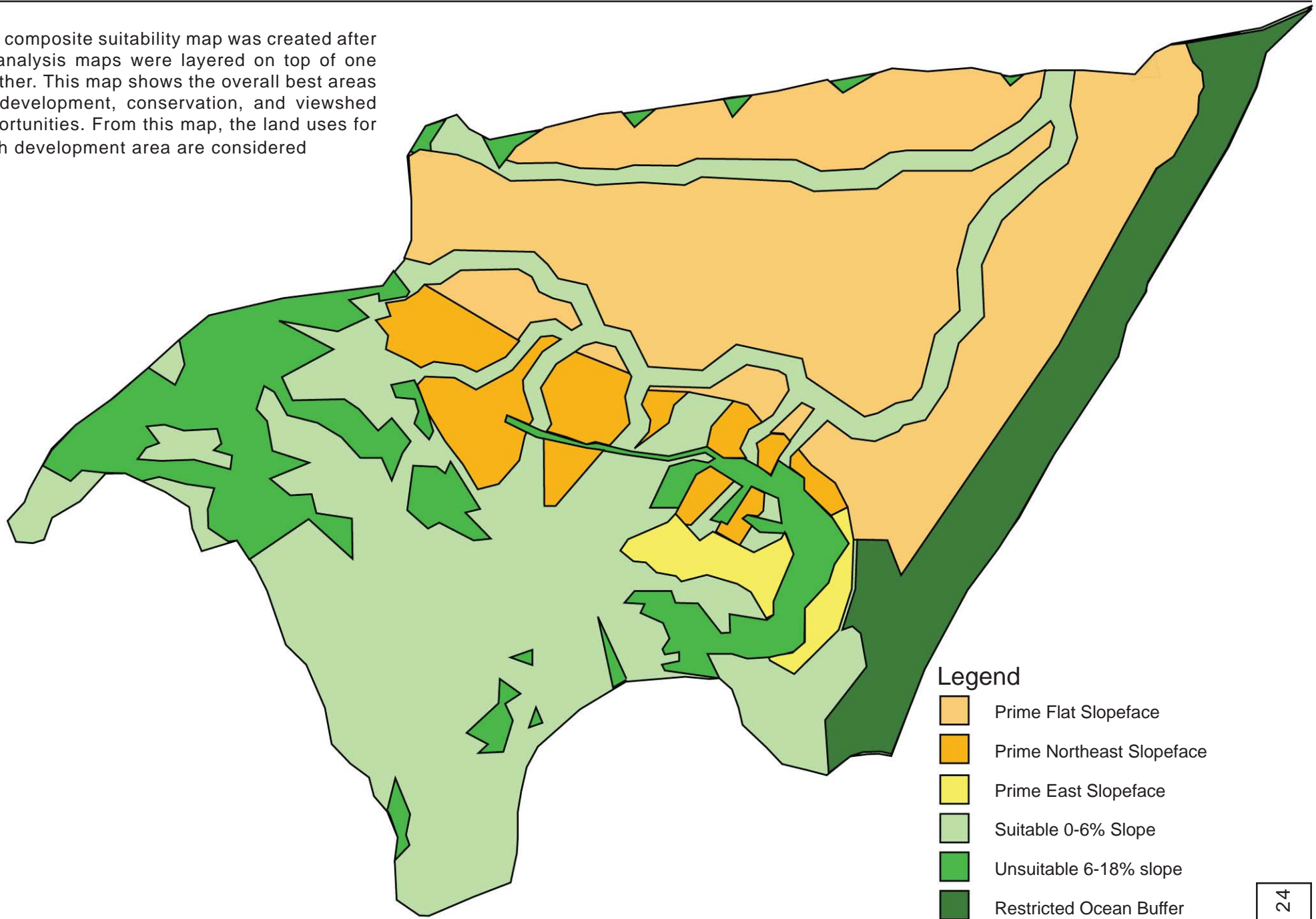
# Drainage & Hydrology Analysis

The Rosalie Bay site is bordered by three water sources: the Rosalie River to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and a small creek to the south. All of these waterways provide for unique experiences to the visitors. The natural drainage patterns down slope are also guiding elements of the site design. These drainage ways allow for water catchment and amenities, and also provide a source of irrigation for farming.



# Composite Analysis

The composite suitability map was created after all analysis maps were layered on top of one another. This map shows the overall best areas for development, conservation, and viewshed opportunities. From this map, the land uses for each development area are considered





# Sustainable Planning & Design





## Landscaping and site design

- + minimize site disturbance and physical intrusion
- + reusing existing buildings
- + tree retention, relocation or replacement
- + plant vegetation which provides habitat for birds and other wildlife
- + use indigenous species
- + ensure linkages are considered (for land use, human circulation, trails)
- + be subordinate to the ecosystem and cultural context

## Built Facilities

- + height and mass to be in scale with existing vegetation and topography
- + recognizes cultural characteristics and vernacular design features
- + constructed for energy efficiency, using renewable energy wherever possible
- + low impact design
- + windows on three sides
- + natural ventilation for cooling
- + maximize the site environmental appreciation

## Services/Infrastructure

- + pedestrian site
- + raised walkways
- + mulch pathways
- + no air-conditioning
- + solar photovoltaic system
- + solar hot-water heating
- + composting toilets
- + minimal site lighting
- + roof water collection and site cisterns

## Resource Conservation and Consumption

- + minimize use and production of water, energy, waste, sewage, noise, light
- + permaculture approach: turn waste into resources and problems into opportunities

## Materials

- + indigenous to area, low maintenance
- + come from sustainable production systems

## Low impact technologies

- + solar and hydro power
- + natural ventilation for cooling buildings

## Flora

- + site rejuvenation through landscaping
- + transplanted trees
- + indigenous planting philosophy
- + composting

## Fauna

- + Rosalie Sea Turtle Initiative

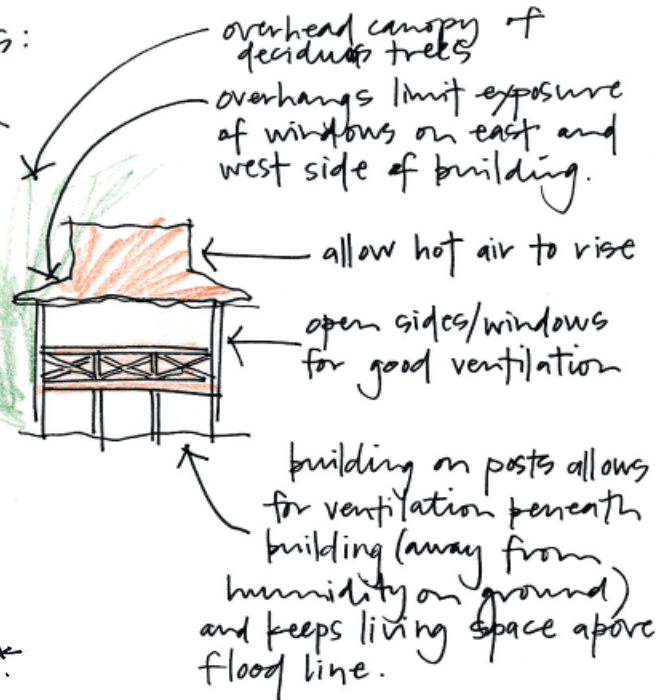


# Site Planning Concepts

## SUSTAINABILITY IN THE TROPICS: DESIGN METHODOLOGY.

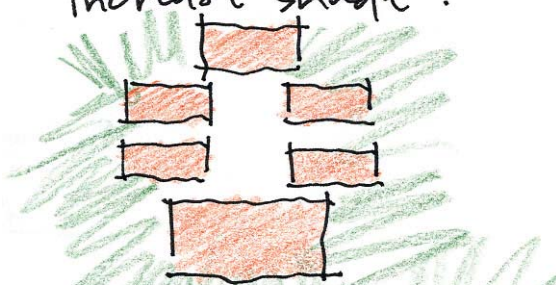
orient building so that east and western wall or building exposure is limited.

elongated structures:  
+ minimize solar heat gain  
+ maximize exposure for cross-ventilation

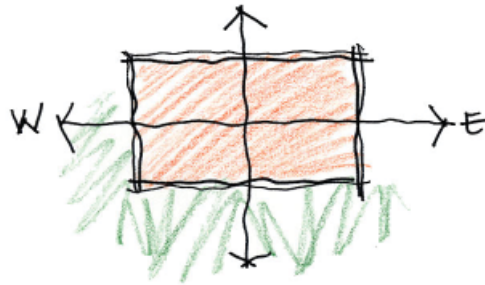


## BUILDING LAYOUT.

compact settlements increase shade.



isolate potential heat-generating spaces (kitchens, laundries) from living area.



The architecture of an ecolodge will be affected by many variables. Traditional passive design should be considered in the design, taking into consideration climate, landscape form, color, materials, energy, and cultural context.

Long roof-overhangs protect and shade the walls from the hot sun of Dominica. The high ceilings will also allow for the hot air to rise, passively cooling the structure. Accommodating for open sides and windows provides for good natural ventilation, as well as building on posts which raises the building away from the hot, humid earth. Elevating built structures, including the walkways, will allow native vegetation to grow underneath, as well as to not disturb the natural drainageways and wildlife corridors.

Orientation and placement of the buildings are other planning concepts to take into consideration when creating a sustainable site plan. Orienting buildings so that eastern and western wall exposure is limited will help reduce the heat gain inside the structure. Also, building in a compact cluster increases the shade and creates a central courtyard space for community use.

Local materials should be used to enhance the vernacular design and help the building fit into its surrounding context. The form of the building should also respond to the natural landscape. Local people within the community should be hired for the construction of buildings and infrastructure on site to benefit the local economy.

# Renewable Energy



Ecotourism and renewable energy are natural partners. Renewables have minimal ecological impact and add a great educational value to the tourist's experience. The remoteness of many ecotourism sites makes renewable energy an economically attractive choice as well (Hawkins 1995).

+ **Rainwater Catchment** - rainwater is collected from the roof, passed through a natural filter, and stored in cisterns. This water can be used for sinks and showers

+ **Solar Water Heating** - rainwater is pumped up from a solar-powered heating system into hot and cold water containers for the shower

+ **Natural Ventilation** - all the buildings have natural ventilation

+ **Composting Toilets** - these toilets use no water and prevent sewage from seeping into the ground. The human waste quickly decomposes to natural fertilizer when mixed with "dry stuff" (sawdust, dead plant material). This compost is then used on the organic gardens

+ **Photovoltaic Power** - lights and kitchen amenities are powered by photovoltaic panels which provide enough energy for average use

+ **Small-scale Hydropower** - this system is reliable and economically efficient and generates electricity with minimal environmental impact. A micro-hydropower turbine will aid in generating sufficient energy for the site.



# Interpretation Programming



**Interpretation** provides explanations of the places and systems that a tourist experiences and is a very important part of ecotourism. It provides information to the tourist in such a way that they will be stimulated to learn more and gain more appreciation (Eagles 2002). The following types of interpretation are used at Rosalie Bay:

- + nature trails and trail-side signs
- + field guides, trail leaflets, map
- + guided walks or tours
- + interactive displays, interpretation center

Interpretation has two components: the message and the mode. The following messages will be included in the rainforest interpretation:

- + What makes a rainforest and the debate over what is and what is not a rainforest
- + The different types of rainforest and, in particular, the type that this rainforest belongs to
- + How indigenous people interacted with this rainforest
- + How European colonization or settlement affected this rainforest
- + The major threats today
- + plant and animal varieties
- + animals, birds and insects
- + special growing conditions associated with this rainforest (such as the nutrient cycle or the presence of buttressed roots)

- + the fragility and resilience of rainforests in general and of this particular rainforest
- + any revegetation or scientific research projects in progress (Weaver 2001)

**Elevated Viewing Structures** have become very popular as part of the rainforest experience. The idea behind introducing an elevated viewing structures is that the tree canopy is the most interesting feature of a rainforest, where tourists can see epiphytes, fruit, flowers, and wildlife up close. These experiences cannot be had at ground level and give the tourists a thrill (Weaver 2001).

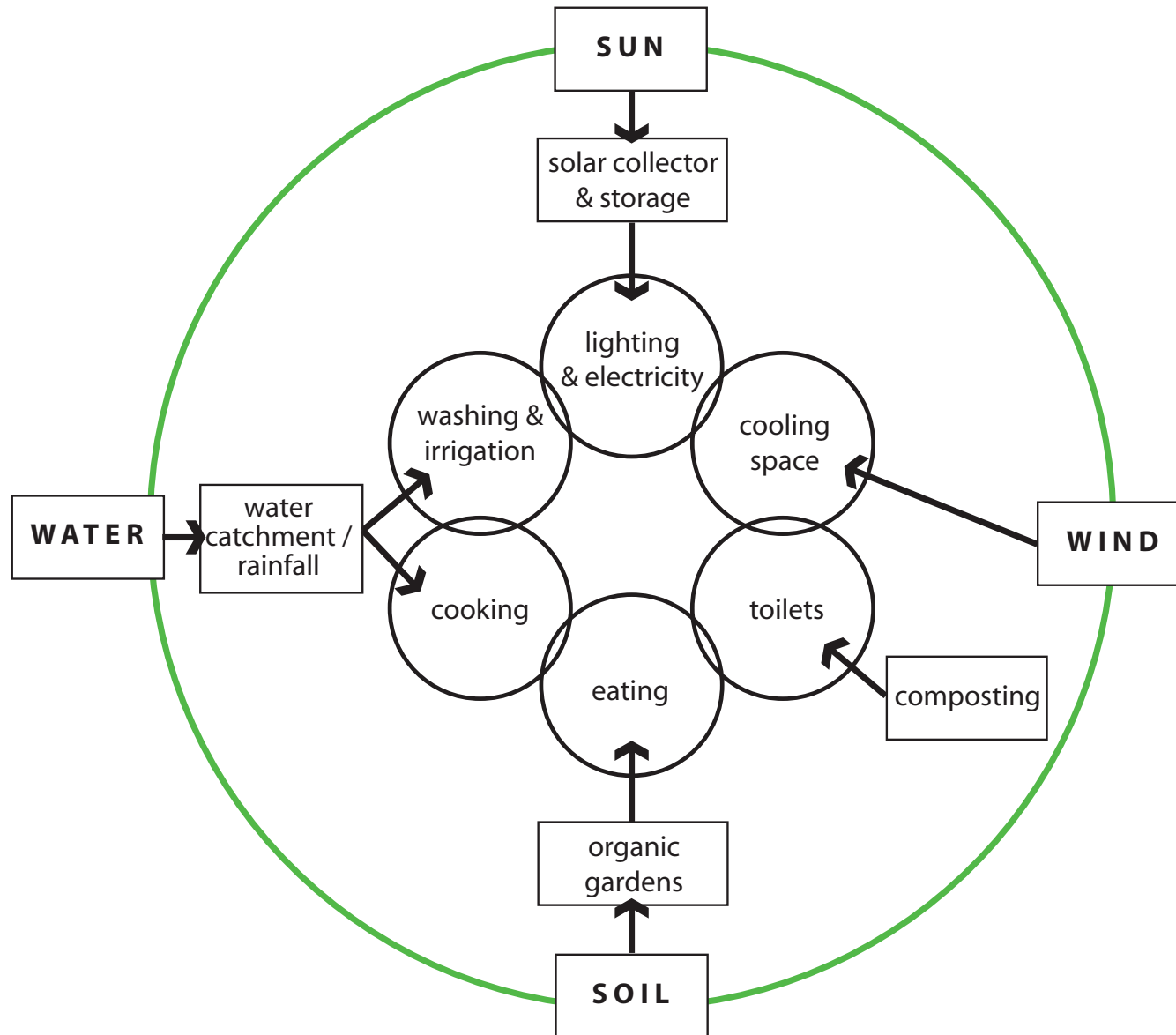
**Ecopsychology Workshops** are another way of increasing tourists' appreciation of the forest ecosystem and developing a connectedness with the land. Ecopsychology places human psychology in an ecological context and is aimed at healing the divisions between mind and nature, humans and earth.

Tourists are guided through a series of activities to enhance their sensory awareness and perception. This enables them to learn from the ingenuity of nature's design and live in harmony with the natural area. Ecopsychology recognizes that human health, identity and sanity are intimately linked to the health of the earth and must include sustainable and mutually enhancing relationships between humans and the non-human world.





# Natural Systems Diagram



This natural systems diagram illustrates how resources will be cycled through the site to decrease the amount of resources entering the site as well as the amount of waste being produced. It uses the concept of permaculture, focusing on how to design sustainable productive human settlements that provide food, energy, shelter and other material and non-material needs. **Permaculture** combines many ecological features, such as organic gardening, building with natural materials, alternative energy, water conservation, composting, and dry toilets. It is a way of inter-connecting resources to allow them to become more productive and reusable. Permaculture copies natural ecosystems and therefore designs for production and sustainability.

# Case Studies of Selected Ec lodges

project name	description	location	number of rooms	room types
<b>Daintree Eco Lodge and Spa</b>	Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa offers award winning, unique tree house style resort accommodation in the heart of the Daintree Rainforest World Heritage region. It is located on 30 acres of land, just 40 minutes drive north of Port Douglas on Australia's Great Barrier Reef.	Australia	15 rooms with a maximum of 45 guests	15 individual rainforest villas
<b>Jungle Bay Resort and Spa</b>	Jungle Bay is a luxury spa and ecoresort, sitting on 55 acres of jungle surrounded by Trois National Park - a World Heritage Site. It is a remote desitination set on the southwest coast of the island, an hour and a half away from the Melville-Hall Airport	Dominica	35 rooms	35 rustic cottages with private outdoor showers suspended on wooden posts beneath the forest canopy. no air-conditioning. a series of footsteps connect the cottages
<b>3 Rivers Eco Lodge</b>	3 Rivers is a small, award winning, Green Globe certified eco lodge set in a lush rainforest valley, surrounded by pristine rivers. It sits on 6.5 acres of land in natural and unspoiled eastern Dominica.	Dominica	8 rooms	four guest cottages, four forest cabins :: wooden cottages, each set in its own large, secluded, organic garden, with fruit trees, vegetables and flowers
<b>Morgan's Rock Hacienda &amp; Ecolodge</b>	The hacienda is located just north of San Juan del Sur, about a 45-minute drive from the Costa Rican border and two hours from the colonial city of Granada in southern Nicaragua. Endowed with a private, white-sanded beach visited by sea turtles to lay their eggs, the hacienda also hosts its own primary tropical dry forest ecosystem. Morgan's Rock Hacienda & Eco Lodge is part of a 1,000-hectare tree farming and reforestation project as well as an 800-hectare private nature reserve which is actually one of the last, large natural sanctuaries along the Pacific Coast of Central America. The conservation of this area is crucial for maintaining the habitat of the animals living in this region.	Nicaragua	15 rooms	15 bungalows in surrounding forest all face west to capture view of Pacific Ocean

# Case Studies of Selected Ec lodges

project name	owner/operator	room rate	transportation options	facilities
<b>Daintree Eco Lodge &amp; Spa</b>		price upon request	aiport pick-up by hotel staff	undercover swimming pool, Daintree Spa Wellbeing Centre, restaurant, Aboriginal art gallery
<b>Jungle Bay Resort and Spa</b>	Sam Raphael	basic package: cottage and breakfast only :: \$152-\$174 (double occupancy) special inclusive jungle-spa adventure package :: \$358-\$458 (double occupancy)	aiport pick-up by hotel staff	visitor center, yoga center, recreation center, Coconut Bar, ocean-side deck, Beach Bar, pavillion restaurant, pool
<b>3 Rivers Eco Lodge</b>	Jem Winston	per person/per night: self-contained cottage :: \$77 dormitory :: \$22 camping plot :: \$16.50 small size tent rental :: \$16.50 large size tent rental :: \$22		restaurant, bar, games room, environmental education centre, and full camping facilities
<b>Morgan's Rock Hacienda &amp; Ec lodge</b>		per person/per night: \$302:: single occupancy \$253:: double occupancy (holiday season) \$274:: single occupancy \$225:: double occupancy (high season) \$223: single occupancy \$195:: double occupancy (green season)		pool, butterfly farm, dairy farm



# Case Studies of Selected Ec lodges

project name	social programs	environmental programs	energy
<b>Daintree Eco Lodge and Spa</b>	Aboriginal art and cultural workshops:: consciousness about preserving Aboriginal culture in our cultural tourism activities		
<b>Jungle Bay Resort and Spa</b>	wood furnishings in cottages “designed and built” at Jungle Bay by local workers. Today Jungle Bay employs 40 Dominicans, virtually all from the villages immediately surrounding the resort. the resort is paying \$8000 to cover tuition for 200 high school students in the Carib Territory. it also sponsors a \$40,000 loan project that encourages young adults to develop buisness activites that support Jungle Bay, from greenhouses that can provide vegetables for its restaurant to waste-management ideas	all food not consumed by guests is given to local farmer to feed pigs and use as compost. the cottages are built on stilts to minimize the impact on soil; local turtle conservation group; education program for the Carib youth and the Jungle Bay staff	showers are heated by pilotless gas propane to reduce energy consumption (solar energy would require too many trees to be cut down). by 2008, Jungle Bay hopes to use wind to generate its electricity
<b>3 Rivers Eco Lodge</b>	sponsor community events and businesses; host evironmentally educational school visits; employees people from local villages	environmental classes and workshops- renewable enery and how to incorporate it into daily living, maintanence, operation; organic gardening	ten solar panels giving a maximum power of 800 watts; another 1000 watts supplied by micro hydro turbine; use the sun to pump water for the hotel from one one of the adjacent rivers. This 24 volt solar slowpump is powered by two panels and is capable of pumping 1000 gallons in less than four hours of moderate sunshine; an Air-X 400 wind turbine
<b>Morgan’s Rock Hacienda &amp; Ec lodge</b>	Hire local guides to inform guests of native customs and cross-cultural issues; Design an international, student-intern program, for tourism students in Nicaragua needing to complete an in-service graduation requirement; Support the Nica-France Foundation which will support local schools in the area; Establish a support network with the local community of San Juan del Sur for working on infrastructure improvements (roads, waste, water, etc.)	Enrich the existing forest by reintroducing previously logged hardwood trees, vital for restoring the flora and fauna; Reintroduce an almost extinguished iguana species into the area; Protect and monitor sea turtle nesting on the beach; Employ people from the local community, focusing on education and training as the two main goals; Create a model recycling project—a practice currently unknown in Nicaragua; Use locally grown farm foods for the restaurant’s consumption, i.e.- grains, meat, fish, sugar, etc. Almost 30 percent of the perishable goods are locally grown.	Control waste management—the lodge has built a complex on-site waste disposal plant and separation system.

# Case Studies of Selected Ecolodges

project name	water	activities	philosophy	website
<b>Daintree Eco Lodge &amp; Spa</b>	water from on-site natural spring for guest usage and resort operations and is regularly tested by the authorities as the purest water in the region. This water is bottled on the property and served as Daintree Rainforest Water	guided Aboriginal rainforest culture walk, tailor made tours including dawn and dusk river cruises, Aboriginal culture tours and experiences, day trips for snorkeling and diving on the Great Barrier Reef, birdwatching, fishing, bush walks, horseriding and thrilling 4WD safaris	to ensure that the spa's natural and cultural environment is managed and operated according to the highest possible international standards, practices and guidelines in sustainable tourism, environmental conservation and biodiversity protection, and cultural heritage preservation	<a href="http://www.daintree-ecolodge.com">www.daintree-ecolodge.com</a>
<b>Jungle Bay Resort and Spa</b>		bird watching, trekking/hiking, cooking classes, snorkeling at Champagne Beach, heritage bicycle tour, tour of Carib Territory, hike to the Boiling Lake, waterfalls or other natural attractions	philosophy is based on a principle of fostering social and economic development in a developing rural economy while preserving and enhancing the culture and the natural environment	<a href="http://www.junglebaydominica.com">www.junglebaydominica.com</a>
<b>3 Rivers Eco Lodge</b>	the water from the river passes through a filter before being pushed up the hillside to a holding tank, from where it drops down to the cottages using gravity	diving, organized tours, hiking, horseback riding, bird watching, whale/turtle watching, sustainable living activities, cricket, artist workshops	The idea was to create the ideal getaway, respecting the environment and working closely with the locals to create an ambience that is a mixture of cultures, where people on any budget can enjoy the natural wonders of Dominica, whilst minimizing the environmental impact and aiding the development of the local community	<a href="http://www.3riversdominica.com">www.3riversdominica.com</a>
<b>Morgan's Rock Hacienda &amp; Ecolodge</b>	Instead of using local septic tanks for each bungalow, a centralized system for gray and black water with a bio filter system was installed. Treated water is used for irrigation.	kayaking, forest restoration guided tours, butterfly farm tour, horseback riding, riverbed nature walk, mountain biking, baby sea turtle tour, yoga, massages, fishing, diving, snorkeling	Morgan's Rock is a project of nature conservation, community development and reforestation offering Agro and Ecotourism at its best.	<a href="http://www.morgansrock.com">www.morgansrock.com</a>





# Rosalie Bay Ecolodge Site Design

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# Master Plan Program

## + **welcome center**

- greeting area
- luggage transfer
- guest orientation
- car pickup

## + **back of house**

- storage
- waste recycling
- distribution
- staff offices
- staff living quarters
- intern living quarters
- food storage
- laundry
- maintenance facilities

## + **main lodge**

- information & activities center
- food & beverage
- central gathering space
- dining facility
- wellness center
- environmental workshop space
- organic gardens
- composting
- solar panels
- solar water heater

## + **individual cottages**

- 5 individual cottages
- 20' x 15' units
- veranda (each)
- natural ventilation
- elevated walkway
- solar power foot lighting
- wastewater treatment/recycling

## + **double cottages**

- 5 double cottages
- 20' x 30' units
- veranda (each)
- natural ventilation
- elevated walkway
- solar power foot lighting
- wastewater treatment/recycling

## + **cultural amenities**

- performance/entertainment area
- workshop space for cultural and environmental education

## + **energy & water treatment**

- photovoltaic cells
- solar water heating
- rainwater catchment
- greywater recycling
- wastewater recycling

## + **sea turtle conservation**

- classroom for workshops
- equipment storage

## + **water amenities**

- deck space/seating along beach, ocean and river

## + **activities**

- sea turtle watching
- bird watching
- cultural workshops
- hiking
- snorkeling
- regional tour sites
- environmental workshops

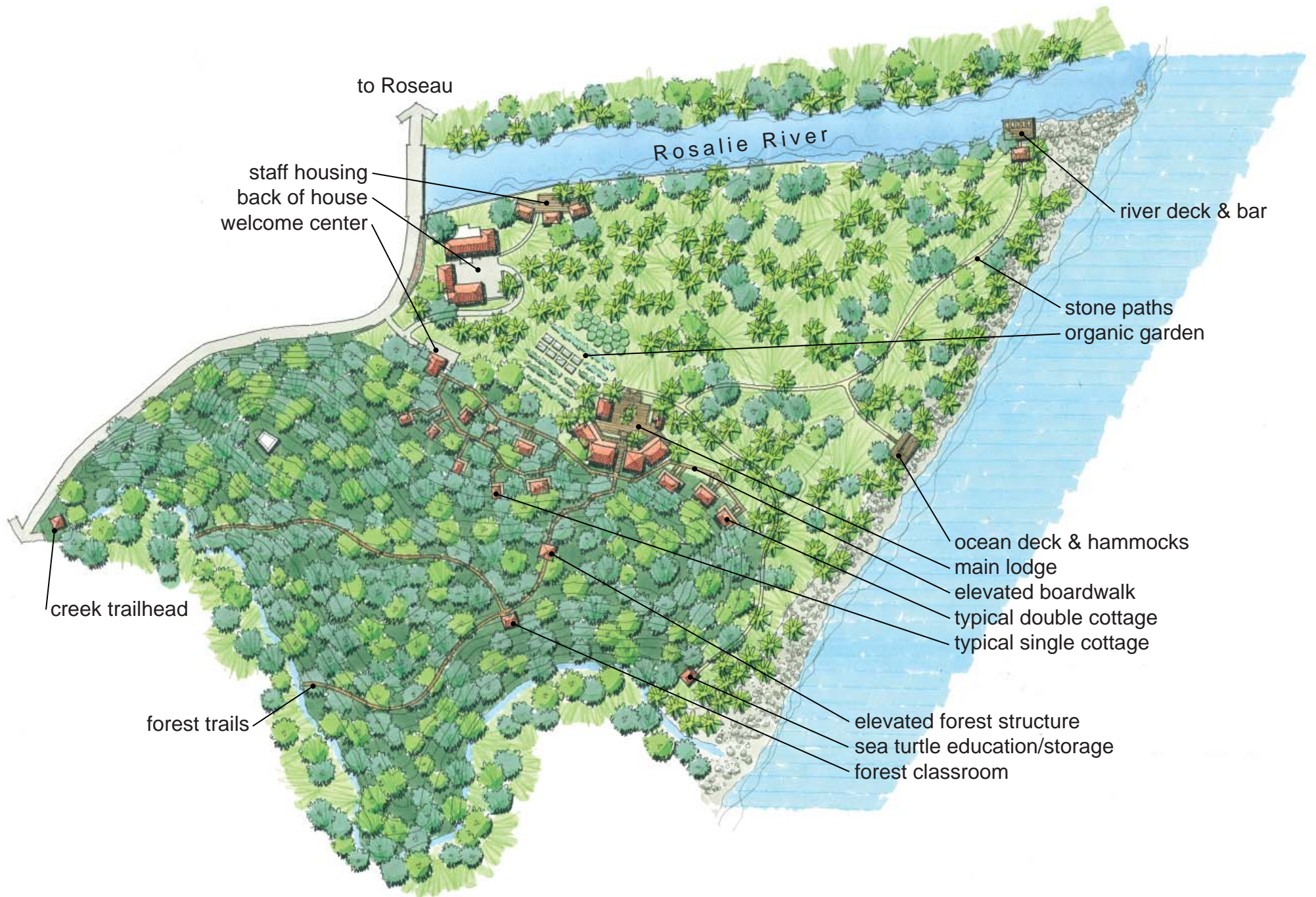




# Land Use Plan







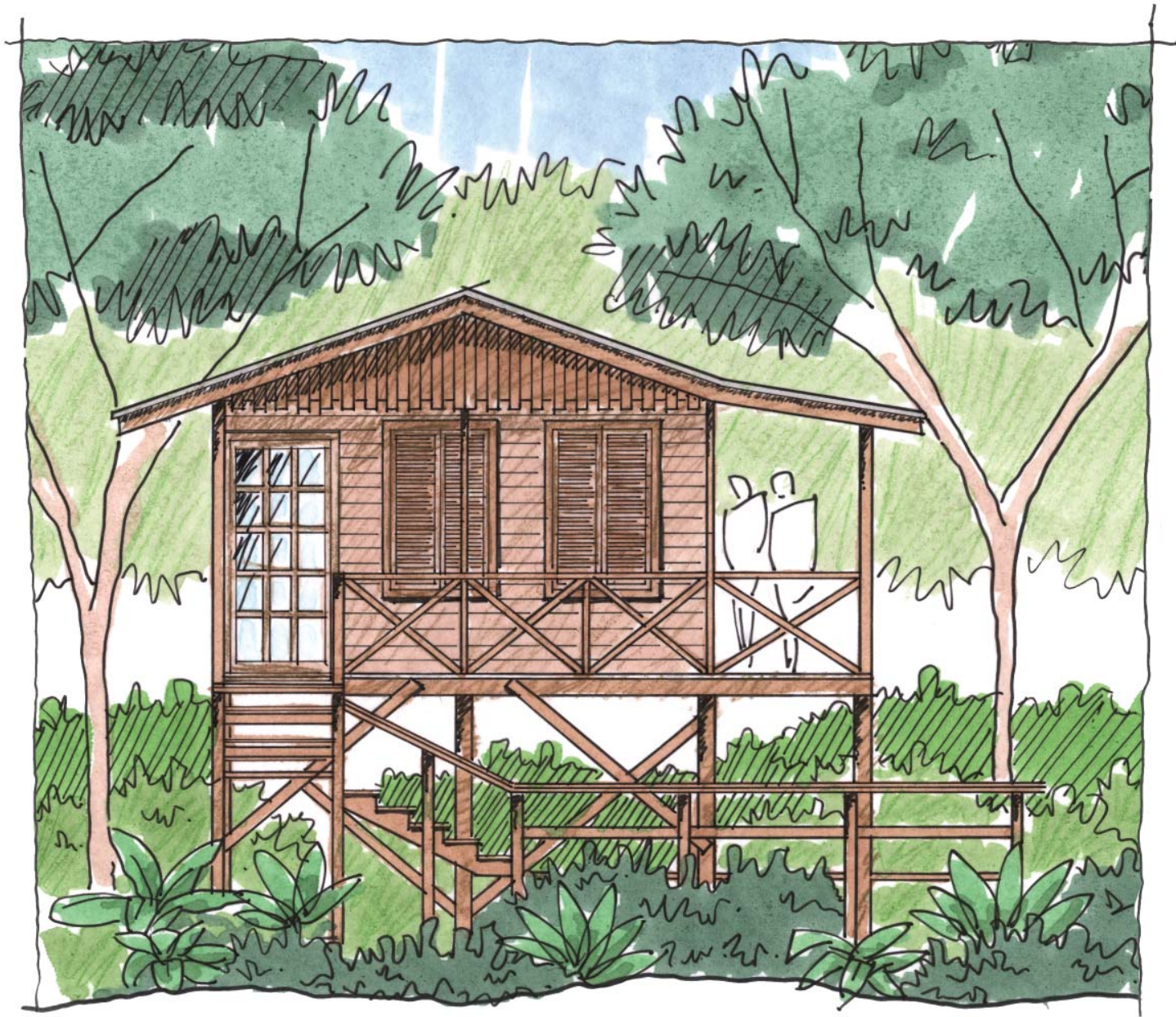
# Rosalie Bay Ecolodge

## Master Plan

0' 100' 200'



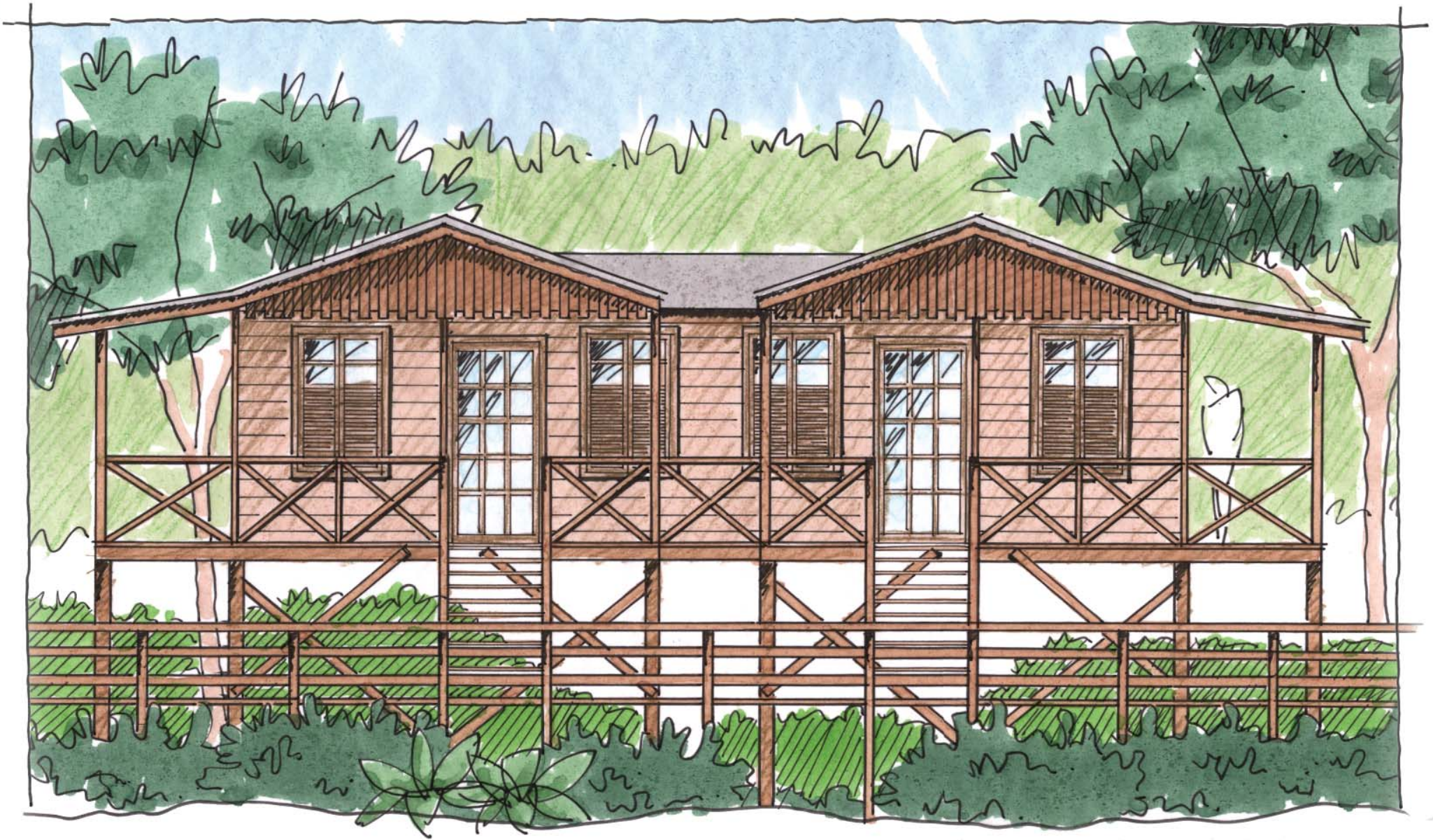




Typical Single Cottage  
Elevation



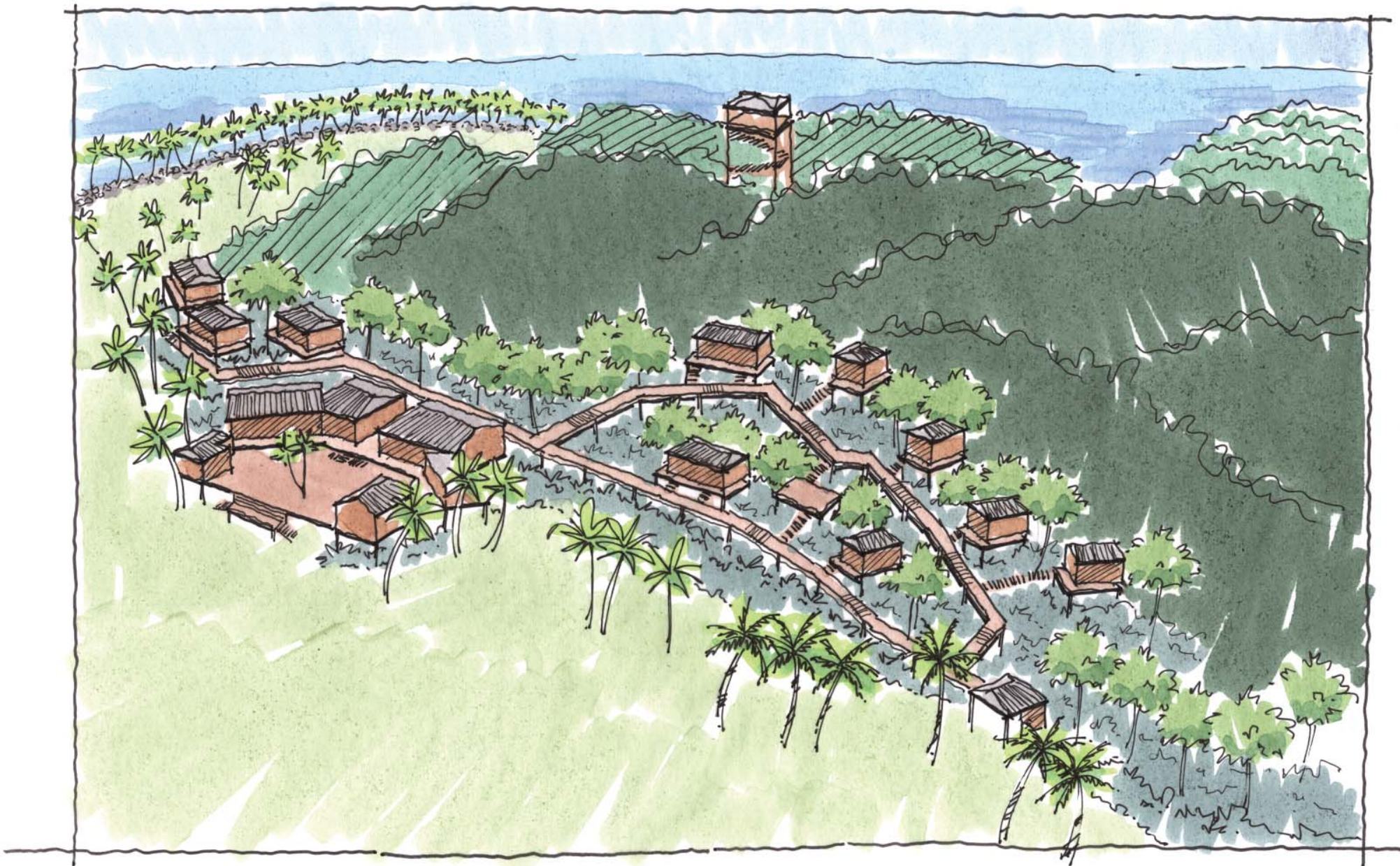




Typical Double Cottage  
Elevation

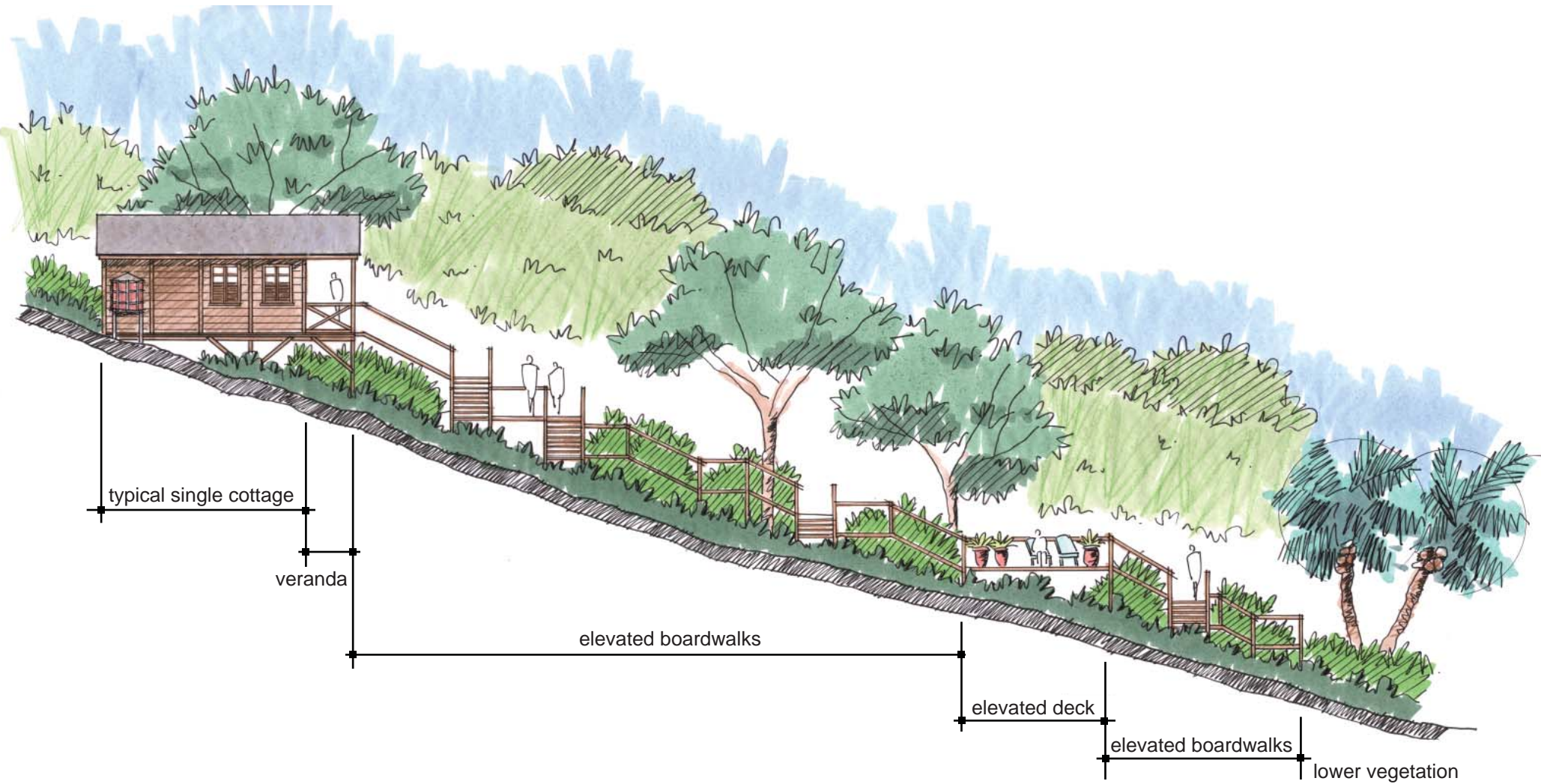






Main Lodge and Forest Cottages



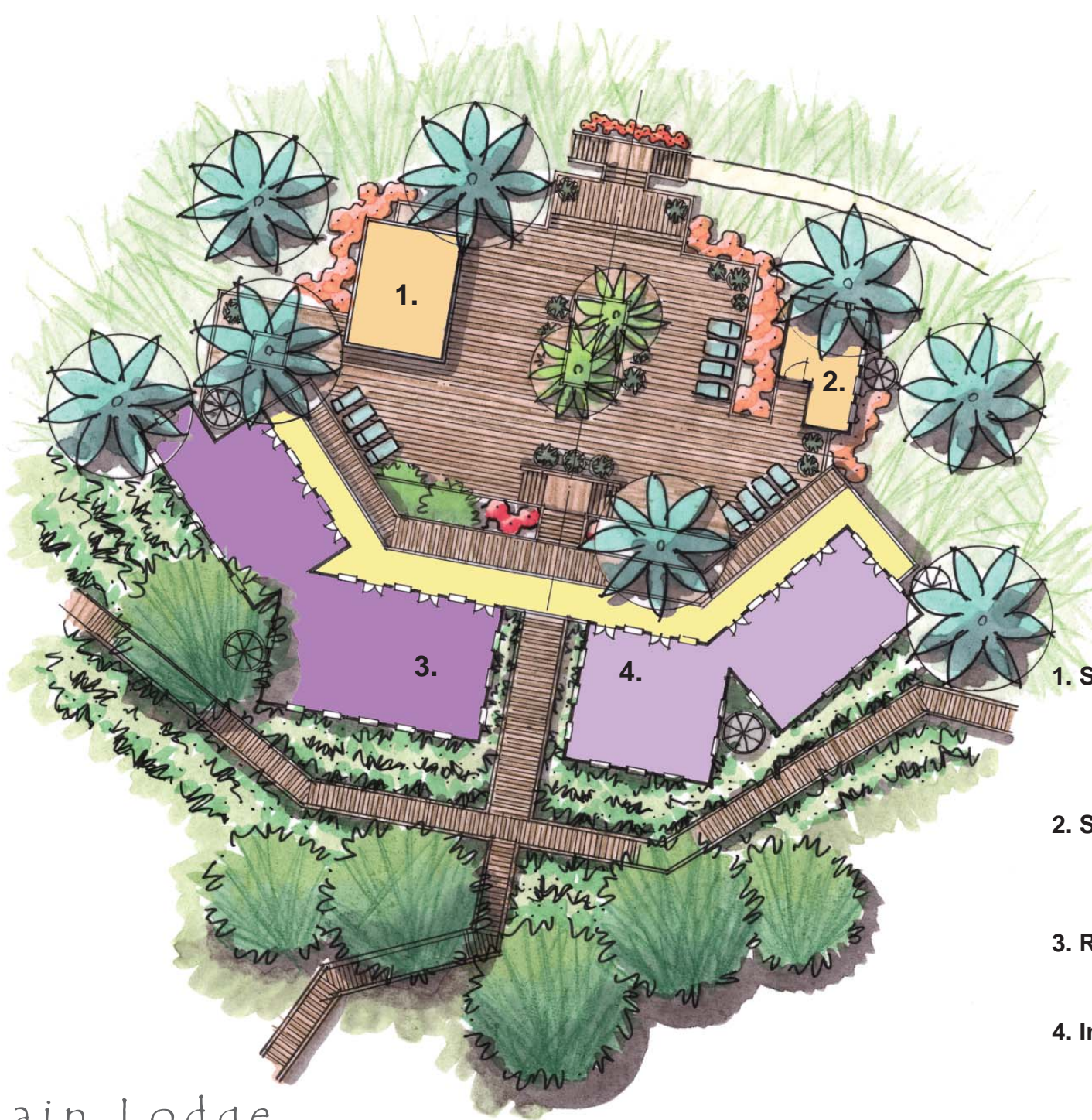


# Elevated Boardwalk to Cottage

Section







#### 1. Shade Structure

provides guests with extra shade from the sun while being able to enjoy the main lodge deck and the central gathering area

#### 2. Spa

provides for relaxation and massage using local products such as oils and herbal remedies

#### 3. Restaurant and Kitchen

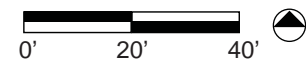
most of the food served will come from the on-site organic gardens

#### 4. Interpretation Center

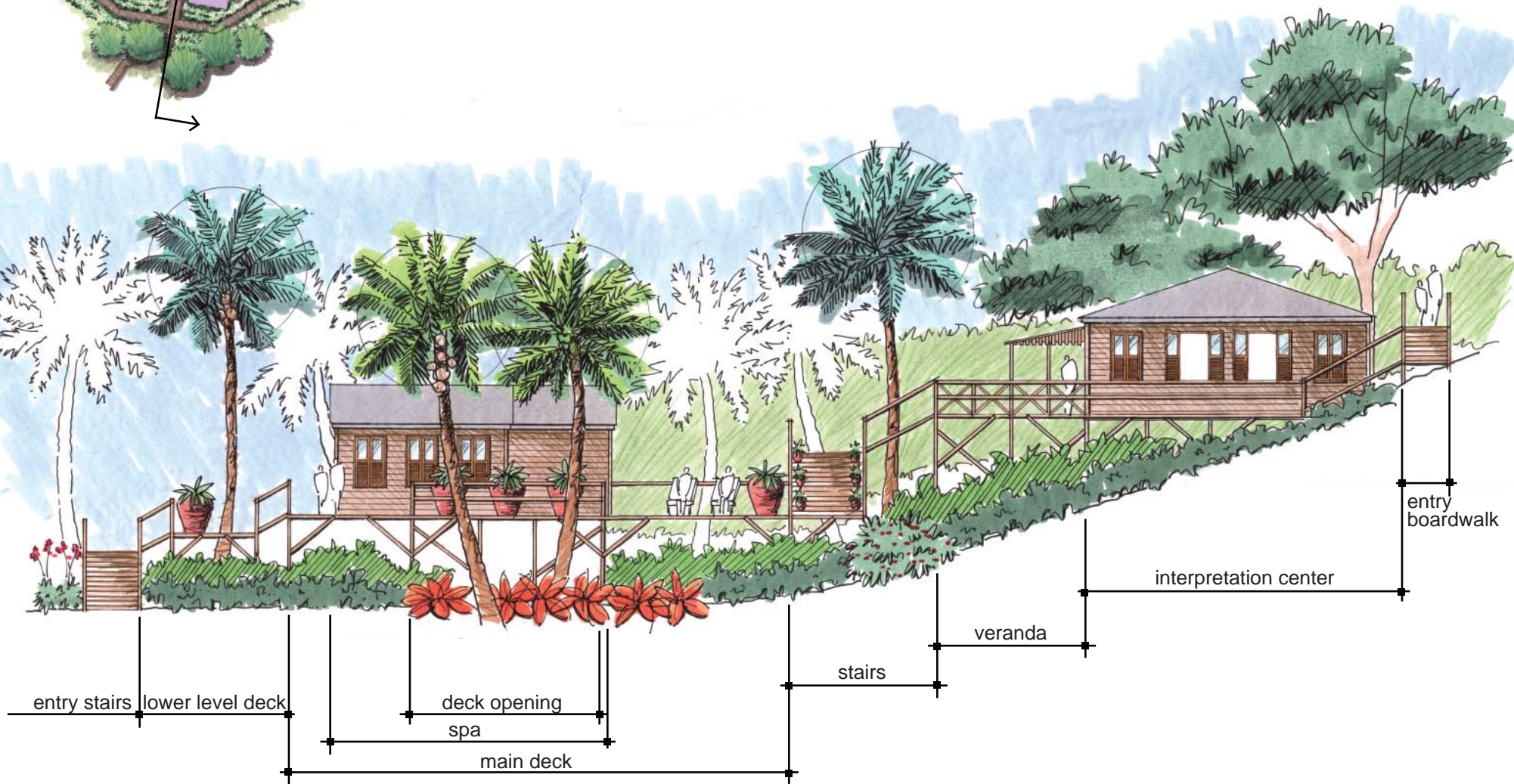
this building provides space for workshops involving Carib Indian

# Main Lodge

## Detail Plan







Main Lodge  
Section



# Conclusion

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**Rosalie Bay Ecolodge** is an ecotourist facility designed with an awareness of the relationships of natural, cultural, social and economic resources both locally and globally. The ultimate goal of the project is to create optimum relationships between people and their environments. Providing for both relaxation and recreation, Rosalie Bay Ecolodge is a tourist accommodation that fosters learning and an appreciation for the natural landscape and unique heritage of Dominica.

Sustainable design of the ecolodge balances human needs with the carrying capacity of the natural and cultural environments. **Building design** for Rosalie Bay Ecolodge is responsive to this concern, and the following are criteria that the facility will strive to meet:

- + use of renewable indigenous materials and reference to vernacular architecture
- + building systems and services are exposed as part of the educational experience for tourists and employees
- + passive energy-conserving strategies
- + renewable energy use
- + minimal environmental disruption

Ensuring that Rosalie Bay Ecolodge will be an economic benefit to the local community is another long-term goal. The ecolodge will create jobs and promote sustainable development of the local community. In employing local people, the community is empowered with an

education in the tourism sector, providing for an even more successful Tourism 2010 Policy established by the government of Dominica. The following will position the ecolodge to have a **positive economic impact**:

- + involve indigenous people in operations and interpretation
- + maintain an ongoing program to teach, educate and train local employees
- + encourage the youth of Dominica to participate in the educational programs
- + use profits of ecolodge to support other local organizations
- + provide for space where local people can sell their food products, arts and crafts

The tourists visiting Rosalie Bay Ecolodge will experience tranquility within the shade of the rainforest, the sounds of the rough waves of the ocean, and in the cool waters of the river. These features are what draw the tourist to the site, and while enjoying their stay at Rosalie Bay Ecolodge they will be educated about these beautiful and relaxing environments. The ecolodge will provide for an **educational experience** in the following interpretation programs:

- + guided tours by native experts
- + workshops teaching how the renewable energy systems work (encouraging the visitor and local people to create their own back home)

- + elevated viewing structure to experience activity within the tree canopy
- + classrooms to demonstrate environmental and sea turtle conservation
- + ecopsychology workshops which guide the tourist and local participants to recognize their responsive relationship to one another
- + encourage activities that celebrate the unique history and culture of the island, including Carib Indian craft making and traditional dances

Rosalie Bay Ecolodge will provide tourists and local people with authentic natural and cultural experiences. The sustainable design practices will place human activity in harmony with local, regional, and global resources, limiting the amount of waste created and increasing the community's economic standing. The primary goal of the ecolodge is to lead through example to heighten environmental awareness while preserving the unique characteristics of Rosalie Bay.



## **+ The International Ecotourism Society**

### **Ecotourism Fact Sheet**

#### **importance of ecotourism in developing countries**

- + tourism is a principle “export” (foreign exchange earner) for 83% of developing countries, and the leading export for 1/3 of poorest countries.
- + for world’s 40 poorest countries, tourism is 2nd most important source of foreign exchange, after oil
- + over last decade, tourism has been “the only large sector of international trade in services where poor countries have consistently posted a surplus.”

#### **size**

- + beginning in 1990s, growing 20% - 34%/year
- + in 2004, ecotourism/nature tourism was growing globally 3 times faster than tourism industry as a whole.
- + sun-and-sand resort tourism has now “matured as a market” and its growth is projected to remain flat. in contrast, “experiential” tourism--which encompasses ecotourism, nature, heritage, cultural, and soft adventure tourism, as well as sub-sectors such as rural and community tourism—is among the sectors expected to grow most quickly over the next two decades.

#### **economics of ecotourism vs. mass tourism**

- + in Dominica, in the Caribbean, “stay over” tourists using small, nature-based lodges spent 18 times more than cruise passengers spend while visiting the island.
- + 80% of money for all-inclusive package tours goes to airlines, hotels, and other international companies. eco-lodges hire and purchase locally, and therefore put a higher – sometimes as much as 95% of money into the local economy.

#### **consumer demand**

- + more than two-thirds of u.s. and Australian travelers, and 90% of British tourists, consider active protection of the environment, including support of local communities, to be part of a hotel's responsibility.

#### **+ in europe:**

- + 20%-30% of travelers aware of needs & values of sustainable tourism
- + 10%-20% look for ‘green’ options
- + 5%-10% demand ‘green’ holidays
- + in Germany, 65% (39 million) of travelers expect environmental quality; 42% (25 million) “think that it is particularly important to find environmentally-friendly accommodation.”
- + nearly half of those surveyed in Britain said they would be more likely to go with a ‘company that had a written code to guarantee good working conditions, protect the environment and support local charities in the tourist destination... [e]thical tourism will rightly be a big issue in the new millennium.”
- + a survey of u.s., British, and Australian travelers revealed that 70% would pay up to \$150 more for a two-week stay in a hotel with a “responsible environmental attitude.
- + in U.K., 87% say their holiday should not damage the environment; 39% said they were prepared to pay 5% extra for ethical guarantees.

#### **ecotourist profile in europe**

- + experienced travelers
- + higher education
- + higher income bracket
- + age: middle to elderly

**Volume No. 1 Issue No. 80 - Monday  
April 24, 2006  
First Ecopsychology Workshop  
Conducted in Dominica  
Terri Henry**

Recently, Dominica's first Ecopsychology workshop was successfully conducted by local Dominican Terri Henry in Castle Bruce on the forested site of the forthcoming 'Richmond Bay Ecolodge' project. The one-of-a-kind workshop was commissioned by EDSA, the largest ecotourism planning and ecolodge design firm in the world and was attended by Hitesh Mehta Project Manager and the worlds leading authority in Ecolodge design and planning. Also participating were other EDSA employees, a local architect, project clients and investors.

This unique workshop was specifically created to help the planners, designers and project investors increase their appreciation of the forest ecosystem and develop a connectedness with the land that in turn would bring a greater sensitivity to their planning.

Throughout the two and half hour workshop participants were guided through a series of activities to enhance their sensory awareness and perception. This enabled them to learn from the ingenuity of natures design and work in harmony with the natural area when designing and implementing the project. Group sharing and short written assignments bought forth clarity of communication and an open expression of thoughts

and feelings which resulted in further unity as a collective working group with a common vision.

All participants commented favourably on the outcomes of the workshop and felt that it made a significant contribution to both the project and their personal lives. Ecolodge guru, Hitesh Mehta enthusiastically concluded that "The workshop was professionally run and Terri is an awesome facilitator.

I have been enlightened and will definitely use her wisdom and expertise in our future tourism projects". Terri Henry has been researching and practicing natural living and healing therapies for the past 16 years and has been studying Ecopsychology since 2004. She is currently seeking a scholarship to further her studies in this area with a Masters Degree. Director of the Environmental Co-ordinating Unit Mr Lloyd Pascal has supported this endeavour stating that "Dominica stands to benefit tremendously by having Ms. Henry serve in this field."

Ecopsychology is a field that is developing in recognition that human health, identity and sanity are intimately linked to the health of the earth and must include sustainable and mutually enhancing relationships between humans and the non-human world.

Ecopsychology places human psychology in an ecological context and is aimed at healing the divisions between mind and nature, humans

and earth. The central concern of Ecopsychology is the physical, psychological and spiritual health of both human and nonhuman species and an understanding of the psychological processes that either bond us to the natural world or alienate us from it. Whilst Ecopsychology is relatively new as a formalised discipline many of its theories and practices are rooted within ancient and indigenous wisdom sources such as the aboriginal populations of both Australia and the Americas.

At this critical juncture in Dominica's development Ms Henry feels it is imperative that we embrace the techniques of applied Ecopsychology to foster an 'ecological consciousness' which would inform our choices from everyday actions to policy decisions. She states that "even as Dominica is becoming increasingly well-known and marketed as the 'Nature Island of the Caribbean' and has an economy largely based on the abundance of natural resources, especially agriculture and ecotourism, environmental degradation continues to be a problem that both affects and is caused by all sectors of society.

The solution to this pervading problem is found in the perspective of deep-ecology. When we are able to fully appreciate nature, not just as a profit-generating or survival resource but as intrinsically valuable in and of itself the desire to preserve and regenerate our environment is more than just self-preservation but a demonstration of the highest self-respect as the self expands to encompass all life." She

also adds that "This transformation demands nothing less than a complete paradigm shift which shatters the illusion of human's separation from nature and instils us with a complete awe and reverence for life."

The practices of Applied Ecopsychology are relevant for all sectors of society. Indeed all workshop participants agreed that significant positive change would occur if a large segment of the population became involved in the 'Reconnect to Nature' process. For further information or to make a booking for the "Reconnecting to Nature" workshop please contact Terri Henry on 235 6256, email [onelove@onelovelivity.com](mailto:onelove@onelovelivity.com) or visit the website [www.onelovelivity.com](http://www.onelovelivity.com)

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